■ LIFESTYLE / C1
The perfect green salad

■ BUSINESS / B1
Finance dep't rejects tax relief for workers

■ METRO / A17
LTFRB: No fare hike unless diesel prices hit P35/liter

■ NEWS / A2
Yap back in GMA Cabinet as PMS head

Horse racing czar gets ax over misuse of gov't funds

DILAG

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS FIRED Philippine Racing Commission Chair Jaime A. Dilag in connection with the alleged malversation of millions of pesos in Philracom funds. Executive Secretary

HORSE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, May 4, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 145 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Shades of Marcos, SC says of GMA's 1017

Dispersal of rallies, arrests, raid illegal

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

IT EVOKED SHADES OF FERDINAND MARCOS' martial law edict.

The Supreme Court yesterday declared unconstitutional the arrests of protesters, the forcible breakup of rallies, and the raid on a newspaper office that were carried out by security forces in accordance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation declaring a state of emergency in February.

For full text of 1017 decision, log on to: http://www.inq7.net/verbatim/pp1017_05032006.pdf

Voting 11-3, the court upheld the power of Ms Arroyo to declare a state of emergency and call on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence under Presidential Proclamation No. 1017. At the same time, however, the tribunal ruled as illegal a clause in PP 1017 giving herself authority to issue decrees.

The latest ruling was the third

SHADES/ A4

LYN RILLON

PRESIDENT Arroyo reads her papers before the start of a roundtable meeting in Malacañang on Wednesday.

Velarde hits Cha-cha, supports Con-ass

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CONSIDER CHARTER CHANGE through a constituent assembly—not through a signature campaign that is illegal and is nothing more than an attempt to grab power by those who stand to gain by it.

El Shaddai leader Bro. Mariano "Mike" Velarde yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo and leaders of the Senate and the House could avoid a confrontation over the government-led people's initiative by agreeing to this formula.

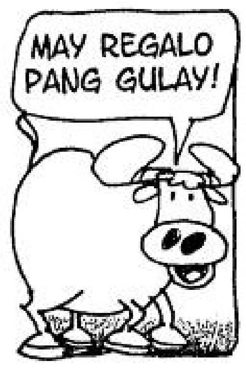
Arroyo supporters are gathering signatures under the people's initiative to a single question to be answered by yes or no: Whether Filipinos agree to a shift from the bicameral presidential system to a unicameral parliament and whether they

VELARDE/ A13

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada assists his mother, Mary Ejercito, on her wheelchair shortly upon arrival on Wednesday at his home in Greenhills, San Juan. RAFFY LERMA

Erap comes home for mom's 101st birthday

By Nelson F. Flores


MAY REGALO PANG GULAY!

AFTER FIVE YEARS IN detention, former President Joseph Estrada set foot for the first time on his home in San Juan to wish his 101-year-old mother happy birthday.

Inside the walled compound at No. 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, the ousted leader stood teary-eyed beside a glass door fronting a manicured but empty lawn, where friends and admirers used to pay him court.

Media people were not allowed in the house.

Estrada, wearing his favorite gray jacket, arrived under police escort. He went straight to the house and stood beside the glass door next to the lawn.

"He paused for about a minute, sighed and, with teary eyes, said that it had been five

ERAP/ A13

Fil-Canadians raise race issue in boy's ordeal

By Volt Contreras

A TEACHER IN MONTREAL, CANADA, HAS repeatedly "disciplined" a Filipino immigrant's son for eating with a spoon and fork—and reaped a mouthful from the local Filipino community, the Philippine Embassy and a Canadian organization against racial prejudice.

According to reports of the Montreal newspaper The Chronicle, disclosed yesterday by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the teacher, who watched over the boy's second-grade class during lunch break at the Ecole Lalande in Roxboro, reprimanded the latter for not eating "the Canadian way," using only one utensil.

The reports also said the school principal himself had agreed with the teacher's handling of the boy's "table behavior."

FIL-CANADIANS/ A6

Palace tells Senate: Mind your manners

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY TOLD the Senate to mind its manners, saying there was no cause for the chamber to blow its top over the no-show of two Cabinet officials and a bureau head at a hearing on Tuesday.

"We ask the Senate to observe inter-branch courtesy and refrain from harsh tongues that tend to place the executive [branch] in a bad light," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye said that the Palace had not been properly advised of the hearing of the Senate ways and means committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto, and that the agencies involved were "properly represented by highly capable officials."

Bunye denied that President Macapagal-Arroyo had given Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag a gag order.

"Cabinet officials can deal with matters at their level without involving the Chief Executive," he said.

Recto had earlier said that the

PALACE/ A4

RP media pay 'high price for outspokenness'

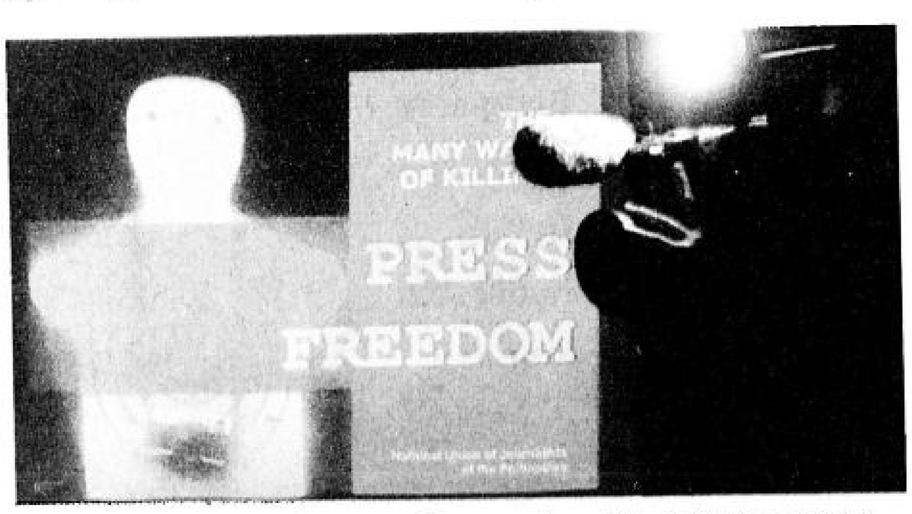
By Alcuin Papa

THERE CAN BE NO PRESS FREEDOM WHEN journalists live in conditions of corruption, poverty and fear, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said yesterday on World Press Freedom Day.

Jose Torres, NUJP spokesperson, said that "the ownership patterns of media ... breed the often unjust and inhuman conditions our colleagues, especially in the provinces, have to toil under, conditions that make them prone to corruption and unethical conduct."

"These ownership patterns, in turn, lead to the erosion of public trust in media as harbingers of truth and the people's last resort against abuse. There can, indeed, be no press freedom when journalists continue to live in conditions of cor-

RP MEDIA/ A4



DON'T kill journalists is the message from members of the Philippine media on World Press Freedom Day. JOAN BONDOC

'We work from the shadows'

TONETTE T. OREJAS, PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

WALLUM: Still helping Aetas long after Pinatubo eruption in 1991.

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Seven years since Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on her the title of Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1999 for her humanitarian work among the Aeta people of Mt. Pinatubo, Jennifer Wallum is still at it, doing her part in endeavors where the tribes put their minds and hearts into.

"We work from the shadows," the 59-year-old Wallum said in an interview on Thursday. She was referring to herself, her seven co-officers, nine trustees and members of the group she founded, the Entrepreneurs Volunteers Assistance Charity Foundation (EVACF).

The group taps donations in the Philippines and from across the globe, and raises revenues from gift items they help market, and its efforts have brightened up communities that seek help.

The latest was the resources

WE WORK/ A6

Schirmer, 91: Marcos critic, Filipinos' friend

By Walden Bello

WHEN DANIEL BOONE SCHIRMER passed away in Cambridge, Massachusetts, last month, it felt like the end of an era for many of the people that participated in the movement against Ferdinand Marcos in the United States.

Boone, along with Severina-Rivera Drew, Barbara Cort-Gaerlan and Tim and Linda McGloin, founded the Friends of the Filipino People in November 1973. Over the next 13 years, he became one of the best known US-based critics of the American policy of support for the Marcos regime.

Combining fierce determination with tremendous energy, Boone spoke at meetings and conferences throughout the United States, wrote articles demanding withdrawal of US bases from

SCHIRMER/ A6

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/04/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bro. Mike working anew to reconcile GMA, Erap

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EL SHADDAI LEADER BRO. Mariano "Mike" Velarde yesterday said he was pursuing reconciliation efforts between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her detained predecessor President Joseph Estrada, to resolve the present political crisis hounding the nation.

"It (reconciliation talks) is still going on and in fact it is what I am insisting on because it is easy to understand the root cause of our present political troubles. It all started when former President Estrada was stripped of his power without due process and you know that up to now people continue to support him, in fact majority of our people," Velarde said in a forum of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Unity covenant

"Estrada is anyway no longer interested in returning to power but he is willing to cooperate and put back to normalcy our Philippine conditions," said Velarde.

He said Estrada wanted to help the country by leading an "agricultural revolution" to solve the problem of hunger and poverty.

He said he had no reason to doubt Estrada's words.

"He's a man of his words," he said.

ARROYO

ESTRADA

Velarde tried to broker a unity covenant between Ms Arroyo and Estrada in August last year but it was scuttled at the last minute. Ms Arroyo and Estrada were to appear together to sign the covenant before a huge El Shaddai gathering at the Quirino Grandstand timed for Velarde's birthday.

Velarde revealed he was the one who convinced Estrada to abandon Malacañang at the height of the Edsa II people power revolt to avoid bloodshed.

"And as you know I really stood with him up to the last hour and I have stood with him before even (before there could be) bloodshed during that so-called Edsa Dos revolution," Velarde said.

"I was the one who personally convinced him to get out of the palace during that day. I told him at least you're the only president without blood in your hands and he willingly left the palace," he added.

He said he continued talking to Estrada since then.

" 'My only desire, Brother Mike, is to really have my name cleared and be set free and be able to help our country, not necessarily returning to power.' That's what he told me and I believe him," Velarde said.

Velarde said some hardliners in Ms Arroyo's camp are the stumbling blocks to the reconciliation.

"That's how I see it although their line of reasoning which I think is legitimate is that they could not interfere with the existing court action which I am not insisting to do away with, it should push through and it should be resolved by the Sandiganbayan," he said.

Velarde was vague on how Ms Arroyo could guarantee Estrada's wish to clear his name as he acknowledged the President could not interfere with the courts.

Meeting of minds

"What the President can do really is pave the way for a meeting of the minds," he said.

"You know perhaps on the side of Erap, (he) can assure the President that there will be no chaos that will happen once he's out and on the part of the President what she can do really is comply with what is in the agreement," Velarde said.

He said there must be some compromises otherwise the two sides could not come to an agreement.

Velarde indicated his belief that Estrada was not guilty of plunder for which he is undergoing trial.

"(In) the case against Erap the penalty is death and according to our laws when the penalty is death the question must be resolved beyond any reasonable doubt and gauging from the course of hearings and investigations there were some kind of doubts that's coming up," Velarde said.

Velarde expressed optimism the reconciliation effort would soon bear fruit.

"The effort is still going on. I'm still working on it and I think we can reach an agreement in time," Velarde said. Asked when, he said: "I would not speculate but miracles do happen."

Yap rejoins Cabinet as PMS chief

By Gil C. Cabacungan

NEARLY A YEAR AFTER RESIGNING from the Cabinet due to tax evasion charges filed against his family, former Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap is now back in the corridors of power of Malacañang as head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced Yap's appointment as PMS chief (the gatekeeper of the President's papers) yesterday saying the former student of President Macapagal-Arroyo would retain his post as presidential adviser on jobs creation.

Yap will replace Renato Velasco who became PMS chief a little over a month ago when the post was left vacant by Rigoberto Tiglao who was named Philippine ambassador to Greece.

Velasco, who has been associated with the President since her days in the Senate, has been appointed chair of the PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corp.

Yap was forced to resign in June last year shortly after the Bureau of Internal Revenue filed tax evasion charges against a real estate firm owned by his family.

The suit was dismissed in October by the Department of Justice for lack of evidence. In December last year, Yap was tapped by the President to oversee her program to create 1.5 million jobs a year.

Yap's re-entry into the Cabinet injects more youth into the Arroyo Cabinet which appears to have gotten over the abrupt resignation of the so-called Hyatt 10, a group of Cabinet officials and government executives last year.

A few months ago, the President appointed the youthful Michael Defensor as Presidential Chief of Staff and former Rep. Rolando Andaya as Budget Secretary.

skytrax
a certified 5 Star Airline

International Supersavers

See more places. Share more stories.

Be pampered by the airline that has won the Skytrax Economy Class Onboard Service Excellence award in 2006. For more information, please call (632) 5259404-08 (Manila), (63-32) 2320905/2336817 (Cebu), your travel agent or log on to www.malaysiaairlines.com.

Destinations	Return fares from Manila & Cebu
Australia & New Zealand	
Adelaide	USD440
Auckland	USD550
Brisbane	USD440
Melbourne	USD440
Perth	USD410
Sydney	USD440
Japan	
Fukuoka	USD550
Nagoya	USD550
Osaka	USD550
Tokyo	USD550

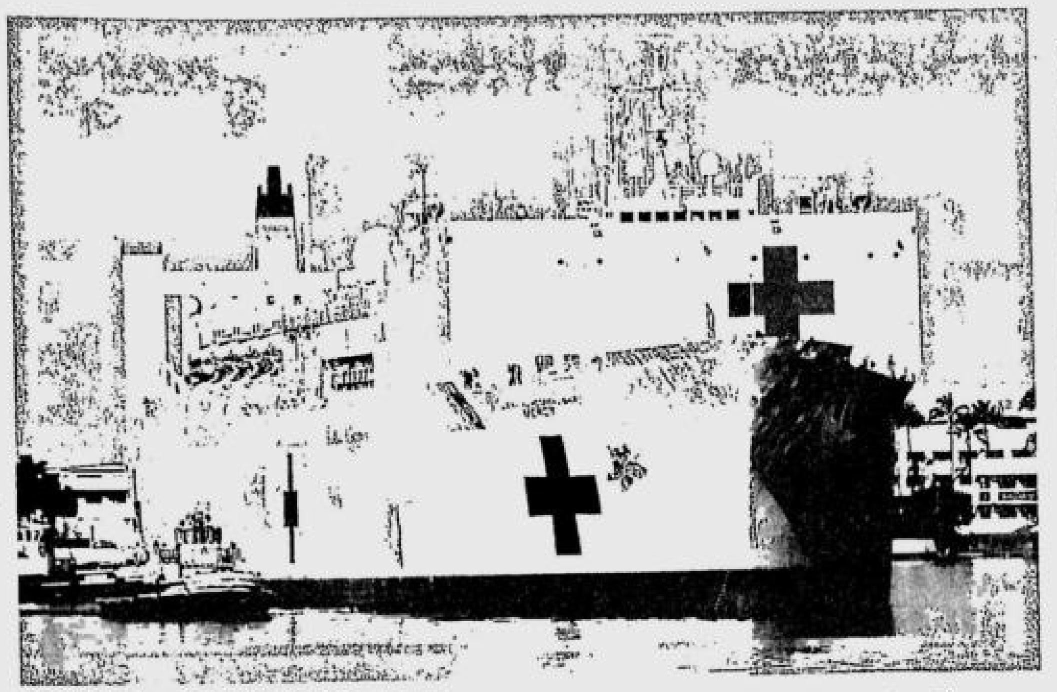
Destinations	Return fares from Manila & Cebu
India	
Bangalore	USD450
Chennai	USD450
Delhi	USD450
Hyderabad	USD450
Mumbai	USD450
China	
Beijing	USD440
Chengdu	USD440
Guangzhou	USD440
Kunming	USD440
Shanghai	USD440
Xiamen	USD440

Destinations	Return fares from Manila & Cebu
Europe	
Frankfurt	USD670
London*	USD670
Paris	USD670
Rome	USD670
Stockholm	USD670
Zurich	USD670
South Africa	
Cape Town*	USD600
Johannesburg*	USD600
America	
Los Angeles	USD610
New York	USD630

malaysia AIRLINES
Going beyond expectations

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Reservations: Waitlist and open dated ticket not permitted. Travel period: Effective immediately until 31 July 2006 except for Europe effective until 30 June 2006. Travel to be completed by 31 July 2006. Fare: Adult only. Child pays adult fare. Refund: All tickets issued are not refundable. Rerouting: Not permitted. Other charges: The promotional fares are not inclusive of fuel surcharge, insurance & airport tax and other applicable charges. Other terms and conditions apply. Black out period: 26 May to 11 June 2006 except for Japan.

*The promotional fares to these destinations are valid only for the following flights: Johannesburg & Cape Town - MH203/MH204, London - MH001/MH002.



THE US Naval hospital ship, USNS Mercy arrives to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Tuesday. The Mercy arrived in Hawaii en route to a five-month humanitarian mission to the Philippines and other points in Southeast Asia. AP

US hospital ship sails off on mission to RP

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—The US Navy hospital ship USNS Mercy arrived in Hawaii on Tuesday en route to a five-month humanitarian mission to the Philippines and other points in Southeast Asia.

The trip follows the white hulled vessel's voyage to Indonesia last year to treat victims of the December 2004 tsunami.

"It's a demonstration of our interest, our commitment to helping people in the region," said Adm. Gary Roughead, US Pacific Fleet commander. "It's going to areas where the assistance is needed."

The mission comes as the United States military strives to improve its image in the Philippines, Indonesia and other countries Washington considers critical to its efforts to combat terrorism.

Earlier this year, the United States donated $11 million worth of hospital equipment to the Indonesian armed forces.

The Navy hopes to arrange for the Mercy to visit Indonesia on the current trip, but plans to do so have not been completed.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses from nongovernmental organizations—both American and from the countries the Mercy will be visiting—plan to join the mission.

Dr. Ramon K. Sy, president of Honolulu-based Aloha Medical Mission, said advanced facilities aboard the Mercy would enable his doctors to offer patients a higher level of medical care.

"It will allow us to do more surgery because there is an established facility where we can do the operations," said Sy. "Before we used to go to the hospitals that are not very well equipped. (The Mercy) has the latest technology."

The ship boasts four X-ray rooms, a CAT scan unit and a dental surgery suite among other equipment.

The Mercy will go to the southern Philippines—an area Aloha Medical Mission has not been able to visit in the past because of the dangers posed by the decades-long secessionist war being waged by Filipino Islamic insurgents.

Navy public health experts will pay close attention to the quality of the drinking water in the areas they visit and monitor for tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue fever.

Capt. Gail L. Hathaway said she looked forward to following up on the work she did during the Mercy's tsunami relief mission.

"There's plenty of leftover work. We took care of the most important things that would touch the most people. So now we can go back and add to what we did," said Hathaway, an officer with the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit 6 based at Pearl Harbor.

Last year, the Mercy treated more than 107,000 patients, performed 466 surgeries and carried out 6,900 dental procedures in Indonesia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea. *AP*

Wage boards blamed for workers' plight

By Michael Lim Ubac

LEGISLATORS YESTERDAY blamed the tripartite wages and productivity boards for the government's glaring failure to alleviate the plight of the working class in the country for the last 16 years.

House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur and Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur sought the review of Republic Act No. 6727 amid charges by labor groups that regional wage boards had become "pro-capitalist" and insensitive to workers' plight.

The law, otherwise known as the Wage Rationalization Act enacted on July 25, 1988, provided for the creation of the regional wage boards to determine and fix the minimum wage rates in the various regions.

The two lawmakers are members of the House committee on labor and employment.

Cerilles and Cagas said Congress should re-assess the relevance of the law since wage boards only granted token increases in wages and allowances over the years, thereby failing to mitigate the impact of the rising prices of commodities and cost of services on workers and their families.

On Tuesday, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Roseller Barinaga pushed for a legislated wage hike despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement on Labor Day leaving it up to regional wage boards to decide on the workers' demand for across-the-board pay hikes.

Both supported House Bill No. 345, principal authored by Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, seeking a P125 daily pay hike for private employees and a P3,000 increase in the monthly salaries of state workers.

Cerilles said a review of RA 6727 was intended to improve the boards' performance.

"A review would guide us on how the wage boards can be more receptive to workers and change the labor sector's perspective that they are pro-capitalist. There is no need to abolish the wage boards. All we need to do is to improve them for our workers," said Cerilles.

Cerilles stressed that refor-ming the regional wage boards was important since the latter had been mandated by law to act on wage hike petitions.

Cagas pointed out that aside from allegedly being "pro-capitalist," the regional wage boards had been accused of being snail-paced in acting on wage hike petitions.

He also scored the law's prohibition on granting pay hikes more than once a year unless there were supervening events.

"Congress has to clearly state these supervening events so that businessmen can't use this provision to protect their interests, and to give the boards more leeway in granting pay hikes," he said.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno started the campaign for a P125 wage increase in 1999 but it was only filed in Congress in 2001.

"Based on the experiences of labor groups, we cannot expect any concrete and significant wage increases from the regional wage boards, only denials or dole-outs. Congress should break this impasse on the virtual wage freeze and lay the ground for a legislated nationwide P125 wage hike for private sector workers," Beltran said.

Statistics from the National Wages and Productivity Commision showed that the daily living wage in the National Capital Region had already reached P746.00 for a family of six, as of March 2006.

The wage boards had pegged the daily minimum wage rate in the NCR at P325. But Beltran said the real value of P125 had shrunk to P65.

Don't miss this opportunity, Be an Exhibitor of the First and the Biggest International Hardware Exhibit!!!

1st Philippine International Hardware Expo
第一屆菲律濱
國際五金器材展覽會

PhilHardware 2006

September 21 to 24, 2006
Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)
Manila, Philippines

In conjunction with :
Lighting 2006
DIY and Home Improvement 2006
Gardening and Landscaping 2006

http://www.adexhibit-inc.com

In Cooperation with: Department of Tourism, Philippine Hardware Foundation Inc., Philippine Association of Electrical Industries, Inc., Philippine Metalcasting Association, Philippine Iron and Steel Institute, Philippine Association of Landscape Architects, Philippine Lumber Merchants Association

PRODUCT CATEGORIES:
Abrasives, Adhesives and Sealants, Agricultural Machinery and Equipments, Alarms, Bells and Chimes, Appliances, Bathroom Fixtures and fittings, Batteries, Belts and Pulleys, Building Materials, Car Accessories, Chemicals and Pesticides, Cleaning / Sanitary Supplies and Equipments, Clock and Time Products, Construction Materials and Supplies, DIY and Hardware Products, Door and Window Accessories, Drainage Systems, Electrical Supplies and Equipments, Electrical Wires and Cables, Fasteners, Floor Mats, Furniture and Furnishing Accessories, Garden Products, Supplies and Equipments, Glass or Mirror Products, Heaters, Hoists, Chains and Cables, Industrial Products, Insulation Products, Kitchen Fixtures and Accessories, Ladders, Lighters, Lighting Products and Systems, Lubricants, Locks, Door Knobs, Material Handling, Paints, Pipes and Plumbing Supplies, Plastic Products, Pressure Washer, Pumps, Rubber Products, Sanitary Wares, Safety, Security and Fire Fighting Products & Supplies, Shipping Products, Solvents, Steel Products and Supplies, Stone, Marble and Granite Products, Telecommunications Equipments and Supplies, Trade Services and Publications, Tools (hand, machine, power, pneumatic, etc.), Wall Papers, Weighing Scale, Welding Supplies and Equipments, Wood Products and Supplies

EXHIBITORS' APPLICATION FORM

Company Name: ____ Contact Person: ____
Product Line: ____
Address: ____
Tel: ____ Fax: ____ E:mail: ____

For exhibitors' inquiry, pls. contact: Gerard or Eric

Philippines: 5/F The Reliance Center No.99 E.Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines 1604
Tel.No.:(+632) 672-2870 to 77 • Fax:(+632) 672-2890 to 92 / 672-3724 • email: sales@adexhibit-inc.com
China: Shenzhen Adexhibit, Inc. Rm. 2688 Shenghua Building, No. 2098 Shennan Road East, Shenzhen City, Guangdong Province, China • Tel. +86-755-82222631 / 82222632 • Fax: +86-755-82226786
Contact no.: +8613925203701 • e-mail: sz-adexhibit@sz.net.cn
Taiwan: Representative - Walter Liu • Contact No.:(+632) 4100228 / 4100229 / 3362603 / 3364990 • Fax:(+632)4100244
Cel No.: +63917-5210242 • e-mail: dw5210202@yahoo.com

ADEXHIBIT Incorporated
Member of: Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
World Trade Center of Metro Manila

marie france

HOTTEST ISSUE!

"From a bulging 34 inches, I'm back into my size 27 jeans again!"

A new Dawn Zulueta
25 inches
11 pounds
3 months

Liposuction? No thanks!

BODY-BUDDIES
"my friends are sweet-talking their husbands to give them a Marie France Program!"

POSTNATAL FATS? How to get rid of that big belly safely and conveniently according to Dawn

MY BEST BREAKUP
Saying goodbye to saddlebags and cellulite

Dawn talks about her new best friend.
"She takes good care of me. Marie France is really heaven-sent!"

FREE consultations!
CALL 894-BODY (2639)

Shades of Marcos, SC says of GMA's 1017

From page A1

slap on Ms Arroyo by the tribunal. The court earlier struck down portions of Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464, which barred government officials from testifying in congressional inquiries without her clearance. It also voided Ms Arroyo's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy, which police had used to disperse demonstrations.

In its harshest criticism of PP 1017, the court assailed the similarity between Ms Arroyo's edict and late dictator Marcos' Proclamation No. 1081, which imposed martial law in 1972.

"We all know that it was PP 1081 which granted President Marcos legislative power. Its enabling clause states: 'To enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction,'" said the 73-page majority decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

"The enabling clause of PP 1017 issued by President Arroyo is to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally and upon my direction," it noted.

"This court rules that the assailed PP 1017 is unconstitutional insofar as it grants President Arroyo the authority to promulgate 'decrees.'"

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who voted with the majority, warned that authors of PP 1017 "may be testing the outer limits of presidential prerogatives and the perseverance of this court in safeguarding the people's constitutionally enshrined liberty."

"They are playing with fire and, unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country."

Panganiban said history would not "forgive this court if it allows such misadventure."

The decision said PP 1017 did not justify the imposition of warrantless arrests, the breakup of street rallies, the raid on the office of The Daily Tribune and prior restraint on the press.

Lawless violence

"The warrantless arrests of Randolf S. David and Ronald Llamas; the dispersal and warrantless arrest of the KMU and the Naflu-KMU members during the rallies, in the absence of proof that [they] were committing acts constituting lawless violence … the imposition of standards on media or any form of prior restraint on the press, as well as the warrantless search of Tribune offices and the whimsical seizure of its articles for publication and other materials, are declared unconstitutional."

The high court said PP 1017 "is constitutional insofar as it constitutes a call by President Macapagal-Arroyo on the AFP to prevent or suppress lawless violence."

"However, the provisions of PP 1017 commanding the AFP to enforce laws not related to lawless violence as well as decrees promulgated by the President are declared unconstitutional," the court said.

The court also said that while the provision in PP 1017 declaring a state of national emergency under Article VII of the Constitution was constitutional, "such declaration does not authorize the President to take over privately owned utilities or business affected with public interest without prior legislation."

Article VII provides that the President shall have control of the executive department and shall ensure the laws are faithfully executed.

The decision also said that General Order No. 5—which the security forces used to implement the emergency proclamation—"is constitutional since it provides a standard by which the AFP and the Philippine National Police should implement PP 1017.

'Acts of terrorism'

But the tribunal struck down a part of GO No. 5 relating to "acts of terrorism" since, it said, such acts had not yet been defined and made punishable by the legislature.

"Such portion of GO No. 5 is declared unconstitutional," it said.

Ms Arroyo issued PP 1017 on Feb. 24 to foil what Malacañang said was a plot by military and communist rebels to unseat her, involving an alleged possible attack on Malacañang.

"One of the misfortunes of an emergency, particularly, that which pertains to security, is that military necessity and the guaranteed rights of the individual are often not compatible," the court said.

"All that the arresting officers could invoke [in David's arrest during the Feb. 24 Edsa rallies] was their observation that some rallyists were wearing T-shirts with the invective 'Oust Gloria Now' and their erroneous assumption that David was the leader of the rally," the ruling said.

The court also pointed out that PP 1017 "does not authorize her (Ms Arroyo) during the emergency to temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest without authority from Congress."

Tinga dissents

In his 38-page dissenting opinion, Associate Justice Dante Tinga said he "regrets … that the majority, by its ruling, has imprudently placed the court in the business of defanging paper tigers."

"I agree with the majority on some points, but I cannot join the majority opinion, as it proceeds to rule on nonjustifiable issues based on fears that have not materialized, departing as they do from the plain language of the challenged issuances to the extent of second guessing the Chief Executive."

He also scoffed at the court's comparison of PP 1017 to Marcos' martial law edict.

Tinga said that "nothing in Proclamation 1017 or any issuance by any president since [Corazon] Aquino comes even close to matching Proclamation 1081."

"It is a rank insult to those of us who suffered or stood by those oppressed under Proclamation 1081 to even suggest that the innocuous Proclamation 1017 is of equivalent import," he said.

How they voted

FOURTEEN OF THE 15 SC justices participated in the decision. Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno was on leave.

Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez's 73-page decision was concurred in by 10 justices—Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Antonio T. Carpio, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Carpio-Morales, Romeo J. Callejo Sr., Adolfo S. Azcuna, Minita V. Chico-Nazario and Cancio C. Garcia.

Both Panganiban and Santiago wrote separate concurring opinions. The Chief Justice's concurring opinion was joined by Carpio, Carpio-Morales, and Callejo Sr.

Justice Dante O. Tinga's dissenting opinion was joined by Justices Renato C. Corona and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

Tribune editor hails high court ruling

By Alcuin Papa, Michael Lim Ubac and Christine Avendaño

THE EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE Daily Tribune hailed the Supreme Court decision on Proclamation 1017 as a victory not only for her newspaper but for the entire media industry as well.

"This is a nice gift the Supreme Court has given to media on World Press Freedom Day. Personally, this is victory for our freedoms," Ninez Cacho-Olivarez told the INQUIRER.

"It is clear from the Supreme Court decision that while the President has the right to declare emergency rule and even martial law, she cannot go beyond that scope by abusing this power when she clamps down on media and impinges on the freedoms of the people."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the Palace would leave it to Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo to decide if a motion for reconsideration would be filed.

"In a way, we are glad that, at least, the high court decision affirmed the government's inherent right to protect itself, and the President's power under the Constitution to call out the Armed Forces as its Commander-in-Chief to prevent or suppress lawless violence," Bunye said.

Opposition lawmakers said the court's decision bolstered their claim that Ms Arroyo had dictatorial leanings and vowed to use the ruling as an ammunition to seek her impeachment.

- Minority Leader Francis Escudero: "For the third time we have been proven correct in our assertion that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has abused her powers … This also proves, as we have said, the dictatorial tendencies of GMA."
- House Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez: "The Supreme Court once again struck down Malacañang's dictatorial and draconian tendencies by declaring illegal police arrests and raids made under PP 1017. While confirming that the President has emergency powers, such powers cannot be used as her license to kill the Bill of Rights, especially in running after her political enemies."
- Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan: "The acts that flowed from the proclamation have been declared illegal and rightly so … This should serve as a stern warning to all that, as public officials, we must act within the confines of the rule of law and the Constitution."
- Sen. Rodolfo Biazon: "If I were the victims, I would file charges against those who carried these out—from the agents all the way up to the Cabinet security cluster."
- Sen. Panfilo Lacson: "The Supreme Court acted correctly."

With a report from Philip C. Tubeza

Palace tells Senate: Mind your manners

From page A1

committee hearing on the bills on the proposed reduction of individual income tax rates, rationalization of fiscal incentives and measures to curb smuggling would be the first test of Palace compliance with the Supreme Court ruling voiding portions of Executive Order No. 464.

The order issued by the President bars government executives from appearing at congressional inquiries without her say-so.

Angered by the three officials' absence on Tuesday, as well as their being represented by their subordinates, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said, among other words of displeasure: "To hell with you!"

But Buñag yesterday said his absence at the Senate hearing was not a show of disrespect but a result of his confusing schedule.

Not yet final

At a briefing yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita pointed out that EO 464 was signed largely because of what the Palace viewed as the Senate's rough treatment of executive officials, specifically National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales during a hearing on the contract signed by the government with the US lobby firm Venable.

Ermita said that while the administration did not see fit to invoke EO 464 at the hearing, it could have done so if it wanted to.

"For all intents and purposes, the ruling on EO 464 is not final and executory because the executive branch was given a period to reply and file its motion for reconsideration," he said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez aired a similar view in coming to the defense of Teves, Favila and Buñag.

"Since the [Supreme Court] decision is not final, the Cabinet may be estopped by appearing," Gonzalez told reporters, citing the legal principle of estoppel, which stops one from alleging something one had previously denied.

"If we appear, it is as if we have accepted that the decision is final. I think that is the reason why they did not appear, although I have not talked [to them]," he said. "Maybe they have consulted with the Solgen (Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura)."

Gonzalez also said the Department of Justice and Nachura's office would issue a memorandum to guide Cabinet officials in the matter of invitations to congressional inquiries.

"We are not defying the Supreme Court on EO 464. [But] it does not mean that with the decision, we cannot totally invoke executive privilege," Ermita said.

He also said that as far as he was concerned, the absence of the three officials was "excusable," noting that Teves was abroad and Favila had personally advised Recto and Enrile that he would be sending his top deputy, Trade Undersecretary Elmer Hernandez, to represent him.

According to Ermita, senators have no reason to be angry because even before the high court decided on the issue, the administration had been judicious in implementing EO 464.

Of the 111 Senate hearings called as of May 3, he said, Malacañang had blocked government executives from appearing in only 12 instances. He said these were the hearings on the NorthRail project, the alleged diversion of the fertilizer fund, and the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal.

And of the 261 hearings in the House, Ermita said, government executives had begged off only twice—for the fertilizer fund and "Hello Garci" inquiries.

Code of conduct

"I think we just have to explain the specific grounds where we can invoke executive privilege. They should also give our executives enough lead time and send the questions beforehand so they can be fully prepared," he said.

To ease tensions between lawmakers and Malacañang, House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles yesterday proposed the formulation of a "code of conduct for legislative inquiries" before Congress adjourns on June 8.

Nograles said House and Senate leaders should meet to discuss the matter.

He also said the Senate should concentrate on measures to cushion the impact of spiraling oil prices and the expanded value-added tax rather than proceed with its inquiries.

In fact, he said, the Senate should wait until the Supreme Court ruling on EO 464 became final and executory before resuming the investigations.

"We should suspend all these investigations and work full time for the passage of very important measures and give way to the crafting of some sort of guidebook on how to conduct these investigations, and at the same time, mend fences between Congress and the Executive," Nograles said in a statement.

"The investigations have become a platform by some members of Congress, including the House, for mere grandstanding, intrigue-mongering, mudslinging and witch-hunting without the real intention of crafting measures related to this inquiry," he said.

Nograles said the code of conduct should require that Congress send a written invitation to officials of the executive branch 15 days before their scheduled appearance at hearings "in aid of legislation."

The invitation should contain with "sufficient particularity" the law that prompted the inquiry, the "general area of the subject of inquiry, and the questions to be propounded to the resource persons," he said.

Nograles added that it should be explained how the resource person's presence would help in crafting the "proposed contemplated legislation."

DOF press conference

At the time of the Senate hearing, Teves was en route to India to attend a conference of the Asian Development Bank, and Favila was at a Cabinet meeting.

In a phone interview yesterday with the INQUIRER, Buñag said he had originally intended to attend the hearing but that he was called without prior notice by the Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, to a scheduled press conference.

He said the press conference, which tackled the recent road show by fiscal authorities in the United States and London, started at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 10 a.m.

The Senate hearing started at 10 a.m. and ended at around 2 p.m.

Buñag said that after the press conference, he forgot about the hearing and thought of going straight to the BIR to meet with his subordinates.

He admitted being at fault for forgetting about the hearing, but said he had no intention to defy the senators.

Buñag also said the BIR did not totally abandon the hearing because officials of the bureau's legal department were present.

"I regret whatever misunderstanding my absence at the Senate hearing had erroneously created," he said in a statement.

Teves also attended the press conference, but immediately proceeded to the airport for his flight to India.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, who was also invited to the Senate hearing, likewise attended the press conference. But he went straight to the hearing afterward. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum, Philip C. Tubeza and Michelle V. Remo*

RP media pay 'price for outspokenness'

From page A1

ruption, poverty and fear," Torres said at a news conference.

He said corruption did not justify the killing of media practitioners.

"We are not perfect, either as an institution or as individuals. But let us never allow this to be used to justify the killings and other assaults on our colleagues and the continued attempts to suppress us. To do so can only bring more assaults and can contribute to the culture of impunity that has already cost us and our profession dearly," Torres said.

He noted that 77 journalists had been killed in the country since 1986 when the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted. The dead included 41 murdered during President Macapagal-Arroyo's watch, making her administration "the deadliest for Filipino journalists," said Torres.

Latest casualty

The latest casualty was Nicolas Cervantes, 66, a Surigao-based commentator, who was gunned down in Mandaluyong on Tuesday night. Cervantes also reportedly worked as a "confidential agent" of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Police were investigating the attack by five men riding in a car and a motorbike just after Cervantes left his home. He was hit in the chest and armpits and was already dead when he was brought to Lourdes Hospital. Motive for the slaying was not immediately known.

Torres said that the killings of journalists were "a glaring indictment of the Philippine government's commitment to freedom of the press and of expression."

"With the exception of three cases, none of our colleagues' murders has been solved and no perpetrator has been brought to justice," he said.

Most dangerous

The Paris-based Reporters Without Borders said in its 2006 report that Filipino journalists had "paid a high price for their outspokenness" after seven journalists were killed this year. It said the Philippines was the most dangerous country for media people after war-torn Iraq.

"Despite throwing more resources into the battle against this violence, the government is struggling to rebuild confidence. President Gloria Arroyo, weakened by a series of scandals, tried to stop the press from doing its job of safeguarding democracy.

"Grappling with communist and Islamist guerrillas, the government, under pressure from the army, included a ban on press interviews with 'terrorist groups' in its controversial antiterror legislation," the group said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday insisted that the country's press remained among the freest in the world.

"We clearly understand the role of the press in a democratic society and we encourage greater introspection among media practitioners on their corresponding responsibilities to truth and justice," he said in a statement.

Bunye's statement was made a day after Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, issued an order restricting media movements inside general headquarters. Senga yesterday refused to offer an explanation for the move. He sent a text message saying simply that he had no ill feelings against media.

Growing authoritarianism

House Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez yesterday said the military leadership should recall its restrictive policy on the press, describing this as a first. "Maybe they are hiding something," he said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo also urged journalists to unite and put a stop to the killings of media men and the "growing authoritarianism" of Ms Arroyo.

The Philippine Press Institute lamented that two months after Ms Arroyo lifted a weeklong state of emergency imposed in February to thwart an alleged coup plot, the government continued to clamp down on the media.

It cited an incident last week in which Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez ordered government investigators to look into the liability of an award-winning television program for its interview with a fugitive soldier linked to a failed mutiny in 2003. *With reports from Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Philip C. Tubeza, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, AP, AFP*

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 30 ISSUE, a story on Page I8 of the Lifestyle section—"Cuna celebrates treasured islands"—misstated the name of one of the organizations that helped Inter-Continental Hotel in its presentation of "Rachified: Installations by Rachy Cuna, Floral Architect of the Philippines" at the hotel lobby. The presentation was made in cooperation with Filipino Heritage Festival Inc.—not the Heritage Conservation Society.

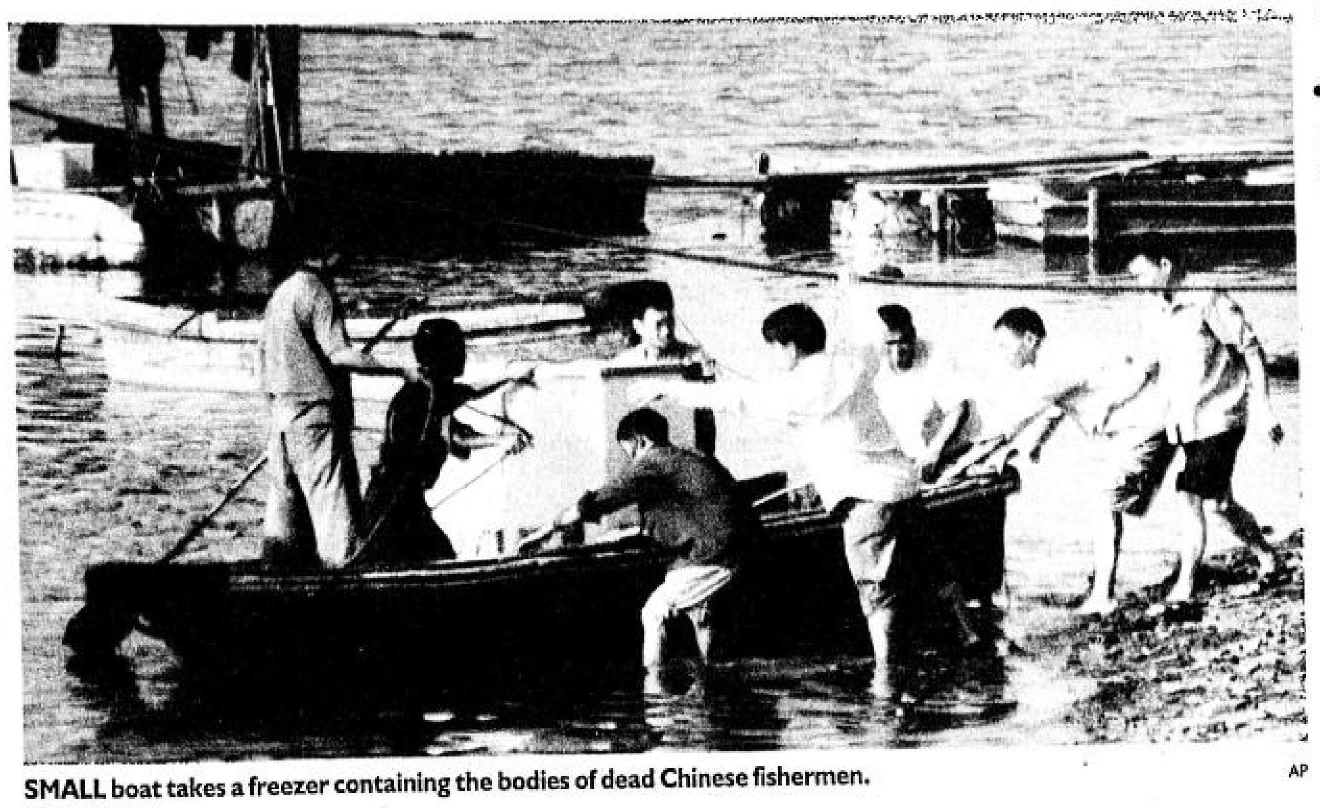
* * *

IN THE MAY 2 ISSUE, a story on Page A2—"Gov't sees P26-B bonanza from VAT"—misstated that the government was expecting a P26.3-billion windfall from the expanded value-added tax collection this year. Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said that the figure was not over and above the VAT target of P75.79 billion projected for 2006. Andaya said the P26.3 billion simply referred to the amount of proposed projects that would be funded if the P75.79-billion target was exceeded due to a bigger tax take on higher oil prices.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.



SMALL boat takes a freezer containing the bodies of dead Chinese fishermen. AP

Navy to probe attack on Sino boat

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE Philippines to investigate an attack on a Chinese fishing boat in disputed waters in the South China Sea which left four crewmen dead, and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Philippine Navy was conducting the investigation.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said that Chinese consular officials had told it they were uncertain of the nationality of the attackers or their vessel as it "had no flag or identifying marks."

But the Chinese paper Southern Daily reported that last Thursday's attack on the Jinghai 03012 in the disputed Spratly Islands could have been carried out by a Filipino vessel. It did not say how it came to that conclusion.

Philippine Navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said the navy had no boats in the area.

The Southern Daily quoted a survivor as saying that a Philippine boat was behind the attack, and that "six of (the attackers) wore camouflage clothes while the other seven were casually dressed."

"The attack appeared to be organized," the report said.

The Jinghai 03012 has since returned to its home base on China's southern Hainan island with three wounded crew members in stable condition.

Ermita said that the Navy was investigating but cautioned against assuming quickly that the attackers were Filipinos.

Very good relations

"The Chinese themselves said they are still verifying the details of the incident," Ermita said.

"We have very good relations with the People's Republic of China," Ermita added. "It is only right that we do the best we can to ensure that things are righted, if indeed there are things done by our nationals."

Political and security analyst Rommel Banlaoi, a Spratlys expert, said the attack was "a piracy issue" rather than a state territorial conflict.

Banlaoi said pirates from Indonesia, Malaysia and the southern Philippines are known to attack ships in the area, and no one should immediately assume that the attackers were Filipinos.

"The South China Sea is a major flash point and reports like this could trigger conflict," Banlaoi said.

The Spratlys are a chain of more than 100 small islands or reefs that are believed to sit atop vast mineral deposits. They are claimed partially or entirely by Brunei, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

All claimants are governed by a code of conduct to maintain the status quo and avoid actions that could incite armed confrontation in the area.

AFP with a report from Christine O. Avendaño

J.Y. Campos is dead; 84

JOSE YAO CAMPOS, FOUNDER AND CHAIR emeritus of United Laboratories Inc., the Unilab Group of Companies and Greenfield Group of Companies, died on May 1 at the age of 84.

He is survived by wife Beatrice; children Joy, Butch and Ollie, Jeffrey, and Elizabeth; and grandchildren Clinton and Jacqueline, Chrissy, Mikey, Jeanette, Jaclyn and Luke, Jay, Janelle, Jamie, and Niña.

Campos was one of the trusted cronies of former President Ferdinand Marcos. He helped finance Marcos' election campaigns and set up Independent Realty Corp., the flagship company of the strongman's business empire.

Other companies organized by Campos for the Marcoses were Prime Holdings Corp., Master Assets Corp., Novo Properties Inc., Century Wealth Group, Performance Investment Corp., Anchor Estate Inc., Oesco Timber Inc., Universal Holdings Corp., Universal Silk Corp., Earthcore Holdings Corp., Trans Oriental Holdings Corp. and San Mariano Mining Corp.

In return, Marcos gave government support to Yao's companies, including Unilab, which was put up in 1953 and became one of Asia's largest pharmaceutical firms.

When Marcos was still a congressman, Campos enlisted his help in getting dollars needed to import medicines and chemicals. Later on, Unilab accounted for at least 80 percent of government medicine purchases.

After Marcos' ouster in 1986, Campos surrendered IRC and other dummy corporations to the Presidential Commission on Good Government as part of a compromise agreement. All in all, he handed over P250 million in cash, 197 certificates of title covering 1,650 hectares of land all over the Philippines, and shares of stocks in 27 corporations worth billions of pesos. His actions granted him immunity from criminal and civil charges.

Campos was able to keep Unilab, after proving that Marcos did not have a single share of stock in the company. The Campos family's real estate firm Greenfields Development Corp. built Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club, Hillsborough Subdivision and the Edsa Central Shopping Complex. *PDI Research*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 4, 2006
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8:26-40
Gospel: John 6:44-51

Jesus addressed the crowd, "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: They shall all be taught by God. So whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.

"For no one has seen the Father except the One who comes from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

"I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the bread which comes from heaven so that you may eat of it and not die.

"I am the living bread which has come from heaven; whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

Commentary

Philip becomes a preacher/missionary and converts an Ethiopian. Sitting with him and explaining the book of Isaiah, he connects it to Jesus crucified and risen. Along the way (in imitation of Jesus giving understanding and revealing himself along the way), he baptizes the man. Then the Spirit snatches Philip away and he finds himself somewhere else!

If we share insight and the meaning of the Scriptures with others, and reveal the face of God in Jesus to others, we are taught by God and know something of the eternal life of God.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SPEND THIS SUMMER
WITH YOUR FAVORITE CHICK.
KFC
Spend this summer with
HSBC
HSBC
HSBC

FREE 15-piece KFC Big Bucket Meal worth P910
when you get an HSBC credit card*

Get all of these for FREE when you're approved for a RED MasterCard, HSBC Classic or Gold Card:
- 15 mouth-watering pieces of chicken
- 5 delicious fixins and 5 rice

Spend this summer with a meal that's good for the whole family. Apply now!
CALL 8857590 to 93 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph.

* Not including Mabuhay Miles Visa or Premier MasterCard. Terms and conditions apply.

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

See tent cards for details. Promo is until 30 June 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1529. Series of 2006

Fil-Canadians raise race issue in boy's ordeal

From page A1

When the child's mother phoned the school to complain, the principal justified the action because "your son eats like a pig," the reports said.

The mother and other parties outraged by the incident said the child's way of eating—filling a spoon by pushing the food on his plate with a fork—was "the traditional Filipino way," an expression of his native culture that was supposedly welcome in a free society.

Complaints filed

At a briefing yesterday, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa led by Ambassador Jose Brillantes was supporting the complaint lodged by the mother at the local school board, the Commission Scolaire Marguerite Bourgeoys.

He said another complaint filed in behalf of the 7-year-old boy by the Center for Research Action on Race Relations (CRARR) "nationalized the issue."

Asuque said the CRARR, a Montreal-based nonprofit organization defending victims of discrimination on account of race, religion, ethnic roots or nationality, was seeking moral damages in its complaint against the teacher.

"The embassy considers this an affront to Philippine culture and continues to vigorously support any action that will validate a conclusion of racial discrimination," he said.

Also rallying behind the boy and his mother are members of the Philippine Association of Montreal, Asuque said.

'Yucky and disgusting'

The teacher punished the boy "more than 10 times this year" by ordering him to eat at a table by himself, away from his classmates, The Chronicle reported.

The teacher, who was unidentified in the report, serves as the "lunch monitor" for the boy's class.

The mother discovered her son's ordeal on April 11 when, at the family kitchen table, he said, "Mommy, I don't want to eat anymore. My teacher is telling me that eating with a spoon and fork is yucky and disgusting."

The boy said that when he ate with a spoon and fork instead of only one utensil, the teacher would move him to a table to sit by himself, The Chronicle reported.

The mother, a contract worker originally from Misamis Oriental who migrated to Montreal in 1999, phoned the school principal two days later to complain.

The reply coming from the principal, identified by The Chronicle as Normand Bergeron, further shocked the mother and nearly drove her to tears: "Madame, you are in Canada. Here in Canada, you should eat the way Canadians eat."

The paper was quoting Bergeron per the mother's account of the phone conversation.

"If your son eats like a pig, he has to go to another table because this is the way we do it and how we're going to do it every time," the principal was further quoted as saying.

'Prejudiced and racist'

"I find it very prejudiced and it's racist. He (Bergeron) is supposed to be acting like a professional," the paper quoted the mother as saying.

"This is supposed to be a free country with free expressions of culture and religion. This is how we eat; we eat with a fork and spoon," she said.

The mother runs a daycare service in her Roxboro home and is close to completing her studies in early childhood education, the report added.

Horse racing czar gets ax over misuse of gov't funds

From page A1

Eduardo Ermita yesterday confirmed the dismissal of Dilag who had been the subject of a lengthy investigation by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

"We had previously suspended Dilag upon the recommendation of the PAGC. But this was later upgraded to dismissal. So we had to let him go," Ermita told the INQUIRER.

He promised to give a copy of the PAGC report, but no such report was made available at press time.

Sources close to the PAGC investigation said Dilag had been depositing in his private bank accounts the excess in prize money that the Philracom had raised from private sponsors of big stakes races.

According to the same sources, the excess in prize money, running into millions of pesos raised by Philracom, should have been deposited in the commission's bank account.

They said the PAGC had ruled that Dilag's action constituted theft of public funds.

According to the sources, the PAGC also rejected the explanation of Dilag that what he had been doing was considered normal practice by his predecessors at the Philracom.

The Palace yesterday said PAGC Chair Constancia P. de Guzman would hold today a press conference where she would announce details of the investigation at Dilag as well as Salvacion M. Bulatao, administrator of the National Dairy Authority.

Last year, a case was filed against Dilag in connection with his alleged violations of Republic Act No. 3019 (The Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act), Republic Act No. 6713 (The Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials) and the Revised Penal Code's articles pertaining to malversation and illegal use of public funds.

Dilag was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo for a four-year term in 2002.

Schirmer, 91: Marcos critic, Filipinos' friend

From page A1

the Philippines, lobbied the US Congress to cut off aid to Marcos, and managed the Cambridge-Goddard College program on US-RP relations.

He was a friend and comrade of Filipino activists from all points of the political spectrum.

At their residence at 17 Gerry St. in Cambridge, Boone and his wife and lifelong political partner, Peggy, also played hosts to visitors from the Philippines seeking his views and advice, like Sister Mariani Dimaranan, Senators Jose W. Diokno and Benigno Aquino Jr., Dodong Nemenzo, Randy David, Ed de la Torre, Charito Planas and Roland Simbulan.

His visitors invariably became his lifelong friends.

Perhaps the greatest irony of Boone's life was provided by the contrast between his anti-imperialist politics and his name. He got it from his great-great-uncle, the famous frontiersman and "Indian fighter" Daniel Boone, who played a key role in the westward expansion of the United States.

In typical fashion, he took this "contradiction" in stride and joked about it.

Love affair

Boone's love affair with the Philippines, according to his daughter Audrey, began when he decided to go back to school at Boston University in the 1960s.

With the protests against the Vietnam War in full swing, he discovered the earlier protest movement, led by Mark Twain and the Anti-Imperialist League, against the annexation and invasion of the Philippines at the turn of the century.

His study of *fin de siecle* (end of the century) US-RP relations led to a Ph.D. dissertation that was later published under the title "Republic or Empire: American Resistance to the Philippine War."

That book revealed the mainspring of Boone's activism: Like Twain's earlier generation of anti-imperialists, he believed that the United States could not be a truly democratic republic unless it renounced its imperial pretensions.

Activist commitment

Boone's involvement with the Philippine struggle was his second major political engagement in a lifetime of activist commitment.

As a young student at Harvard University during the Depression years in the 1930s, Boone was a key figure in the radical student movement.

After serving in the US Army in the Italian campaign during World War II, Boone returned home and served as a key organizer of the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) in the New England area.

"He even ran as a candidate in Vermont on the CPUSA ticket, though I forget for what office," Audrey recalls.

With McCarthyism engulfing the United States in the early '50s, Boone was forced to go underground. For four years, he would have only irregular contacts with his family.

Fortunately, Peggy, also a CPUSA member, had a full-time job, so that "although we were poor, we always had something to eat," says Audrey.

It was a trying time for the family.

The Catholic Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, where the Schirmers resided for a while, "told the schoolchildren not to play with the children of the communists," recalls his other daughter, Abbie. "But they did, anyway."

DANIEL Boone and wife Peggy: They opened their home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Filipino freedom fighters, including Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr.

Abbie also remembers when the Boston police came to confiscate the books that the family stored in the attic after the CPUSA bookstore in the city was forced to shut down.

"My brother Joseph spit at the police from our second floor porch when they left with the books," she says.

All radicals

Boone was arrested in 1954 under the repressive Smith Act but was released after spending two weeks in jail.

McCarthyism was waning in the late '50s, but another crisis hit the ranks of the CPUSA when the horrors of the Stalin period were revealed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union after the death of the dictator.

Boone gradually disengaged from the CPUSA, but, says Audrey, "he never became bitter about his years with the party like many others did. For him and Mom, you just kept going, you just had to keep on struggling."

Abbie adds: "He and Mom had a great influence on us children. We were a close family. We all became radicals, though we were doing different things. And I guess it helped that we went to a summer camp where we met other kids of parents who were also subjected to McCarthyist persecution."

High point

Probably the high point of Boone's political life occurred in 1991, when the Philippine Senate voted to end the tenure of US bases in the country—a goal he had campaigned hard for.

The next year saw him honored by the Philippine Senate, along with Senators Jovito Salonga and Wigberto Tañada, for their influence on that historic vote.

But Boone was disappointed with the major foreign policy moves of the new democratic government following the withdrawal of the bases.

The 1998 US-RP Visiting Forces Agreement signed by the Estrada administration allowed the US government to reintroduce a large military presence in the country in the guise of engaging in military exercises.

Another blow was the Arroyo administration's endorsement of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and its participation in the so-called "Coalition of the Willing."

As he entered his twilight years, Boone the historian moved to ensure that future scholars would have access to his vast number of books and research material.

He donated part of his private collection of 4,000 books and numerous papers to the University of the Philippines' Third World Studies Center, though, son Joseph recalls, "he objected when the center wanted to name the collection after him, saying it should be named after the Filipino hero Apolinario Mabini." Other parts of the collection went to the De La Salle University in the Philippines and two US universities.

True patriot

But until the end Boone remained a political activist.

The letter nominating him for the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association of Asian American Studies, which he received in March 2004, noted: "Now, almost 90 years old, frail and having survived a hip replacement operation and two recent bouts of pneumonia, Boone continues to speak out against and write about the US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Adamantly opposed to US militarist policies throughout the world, Boone wrote in a recent article, 'The present Bush administration represents the most extensive and heavily armed empire in history. America's economic capacity gives it influence that is nearly global in entirety. Guarding this is an unparalleled military establishment of global reach and frightful nuclear potential. Under cover of the war on terrorism, Washington carries on its hegemonic policy ... It is attempting to reestablish its military domination ... as a stepping stone for US military intervention in Asia and the Middle East.'

"Spoken like a true American patriot."

A few months after Boone received this honor, Peggy passed away on Aug. 8, 2004.

Boone died in his sleep last April 21, surrounded by their children.

The author is a professor of sociology at the University of the Philippines and currently a visiting professor of sociology at the University of California at Irvine.

'We work from the shadows'

From page A1

the group had pooled so that 36 Aeta and Dumagat communities could assemble and plan ways to make their Traditional Tribal Origins Ethnic Education Schools (TOES) fully work for some 3,000 children and hundreds more adult learners.

In six months, the cash, goods and services trickled in, enabling first Aeta law graduate Wyda Cosme, Aeta teacher Gennie Panguelo, Dumagat volunteer teacher Juliet Torres, tribal chieftain Ruben Sison and 80 other educators and community leaders to gather for workshops on April 26-28 at the Social Action Center of Pampanga.

The participants identified the limitations that hinder their work. Guests involved in development work taught techniques on how to sustain the TOES the tribes built in their villages.

Hearing them thresh out problems, plot out actions, and articulate hopes that every Aeta or Dumagat child in their villages will get an education and help their peoples overcome ignorance and poverty indicated their seriousness to attain those goals and protect their ethnic identity, Wallum said.

Leaders found the last undertaking difficult to organize. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the Department of Education had no funds for it, NCIP regional director Salong Sunggod said.

Pumice stone

Wallum's 15 years of working with the Aeta and other indigenous peoples (IPs) began with a pumice stone.

She was then a volunteer with the Enfant et Development's Philippine program, the Information Nutrition Action (INA).

When Mount Pinatubo erupted in June 1991, a fellow volunteer, Dr. Chi Nguyen, walked into the office all covered in ash. The doctor clasped Wallum's hand and placed a pumice stone that was still warm.

"Jennifer, you've got to do something for these people. You've got to find something for them to do," was what she remembered of that encounter.

"I devised this very simple project [involving] bags and gathering pumice," she said of the first social marketing work under the INA.

Not only did the stone earn money for the gatherers and the bag makers in what were then called "tent cities."

The screen-printing of Pinatubo motifs, as well as the collecting of stones, helped "because it was a therapy to work with your hands," Wallum said.

It was a Filipino, Juliet Dytoc, who kept the project going on the ground.

When the Aeta people in Barangay Ayala in Magalang town said they needed seeds and tools to resume farming, the extra money of the bag project went to them.

Lanelle Abueva Fernando joined the pool of volunteers and initiated the project that used volcanic ash to glaze pottery.

The funds bought the carabao and carts. More projects supplied more farming equipment and funded training sessions on organic farming.

The INA, Wallum said, closed its program in Pampanga but asked her to continue the work. That was how the EVACF was formed in 1994. It financed the enterprises of special needs groups in the country, helping in product designing, quality control and marketing.

Volunteers come to Wallum's house every Tuesday to pack the goods.

Their "best marketing places" are Silahis Arts and Artifacts, Holiday Inn Clark, Tesoro's Handicrafts and Hotel Inter-Continental Lobby Shop.

Emergency

The EVACF's involvement in education began with an emergency in 1995 when government funds for Aeta scholars ran out.

As of September last year, at least 28 Aeta, two Dumagat, one Abelling and one Ifugao finished college.

Cosme, the first Aeta law graduate, served her Zambales village as an educator before moving on to the Clark Development Corp. as a legal analyst.

Aki Cosme, Gilbert Cuero, Jeferson Carino and the rest lent help as "activators" (or volunteer teachers) in adult literacy classes.

The group is still sending to college at least 28 students from six IP groups.

The TOES started in 2000 when the students of Alice Buckley, wife of an Australian ambassador, raised funds for her charity work in the Philippines on United Nations Day.

When Buckley came to Wallum to ask how to spend the money of students at the Narrabundah College in Canberra, the NCIP's Rose Bistoyong jumped in and said, "Schools!"

The donation went to build the first TOES in Orion, Bataan.

IP-sensitive schools

"The Aeta enjoy learning. Many Aeta communities with activators then started asking the NCIP and the EVACF for help in educating their children. They pointed out that children had no schools within walking distance or had to walk so far that they were too tired to study," Wallum said.

"They recounted how their school children were mocked for their poverty and physical appearance. Aeta leaders also objected to lessons being taught that belittled Aeta beliefs, traditions and knowledge," she said.

"The only solution was obviously to have IP-sensitive schools," Wallum said.

To date, there are eight TOES in Bataan, four in Pampanga, 12 in Tarlac, and six in Zambales. Six associate TOES, or those built from sources outside the EVACF's benefactors and foundations, are in Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

These buildings have one, two or three rooms made purely of local materials or concrete, or a combination of both. These cost from a low of P50,000 to P300,000 or more.

On nights and weekends, the structures are used for training and literacy classes of adults.

The good thing about the TOES, Wallum said, was that they stirred participation.

At construction, residents pitch in their labor. The natural roofing materials are replaced every harvest time, with contributed thatch or grass.

The NCIP and DepEd deploy the teachers. Students take turns cleaning, while parents assist teachers. Communities with TOES get donations of coconut or fruit seedlings.

Looking back at what she and the EVACF have done, Wallum mused about not having their own real plan.

"We were being guided by needs we hear from the people themselves. And like the pumice project, there was no plan in my head. It continues like that," she said.

Rarely seen

"We are rarely seen in the communities. It is the NCIP that coordinates and trains the people. If we are always appearing there, it is disruptive to the culture," she said.

"I don't believe in too many outsiders coming into a community, appearing to be big and 'I know better than you,'" Wallum said.

Her happiness comes from letters from people that her group had helped.

"What they're essentially saying is how it opened the world for them or opened a new door. Although they want to conserve their culture, at the same time it means that they can have extra knowledge so that they can survive better in the new world," she said.

UN: RP will remain poor unless...

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION Fund (UNFPA) said yesterday that the Philippines would remain an impoverished nation unless it found a more effective way to curb the rapid growth of its population. Moreover, the government was liable to charges of violating human rights if it did not provide the public access to all types of family planning methods.

Dr. Zahidul Huque, the UNFPA's representative in the Philippines, sounded the warnings at a news conference during the 1st International Conference on Reproductive Health Management.

"We need to address reproductive health issues squarely to achieve our medium-term development goals," Huque said, citing the "demographic bonus" achieved by Brazil and some countries in Asia that managed their population growth in the 1980s.

In the Philippines, he said, a "host of disparities" in the agriculture and health sectors as well as in the education were contributing to slow economic development.

"We need to address them, (and) population should be the No. 1 priority," he said.

Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, speaking at the same news conference, urged local governments to take the lead.

"The national government is dilly-dallying," she said. "It's about time that local governments stepped in. It's much easier because we know the needs of our constituents. We know how to strategize."

With respect to family planning methods, Huque said he has warned senior officials "that the government could be charged with violating human rights if they focused only on a particular method."

He was referring to natural family planning, reportedly the approach preferred by the Arroyo administration in deference to the Roman Catholic Church.

He said other methods should be made available to provide the public an informed choice.

Purificacion Quisumbing, chair of the Commission on Human Rights, said that "reproductive health is a human right," and reminded the government that it was a signatory to international human rights treaties.

Huque said civil society groups could actually file cases against the government for not making available all family planning methods and Quisumbing pointed out such cases have been brought against governments in Africa.

Kidnap rise due to laxity, says solon

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SHARP RISE IN kidnappings for ransom during the first four months of the year shows laxity among the police, who have focused recently on guarding against coup plots and antigovernment protests as well as setting up checkpoints on city streets, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita said yesterday.

He said he was alarmed by the 70-percent increase in kidnappings from January to April compared to the same period last year.

He told the INQUIRER by telephone that he intended to write Philippine National Police chief Arturo Lomibao to ask him to reassess the anti-kidnapping drive and reorganize the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, which of late has been conducting checkpoints at night instead of going after kidnappers.

"First, it must reorganize its antikidnapping task force, if needed, and provide enough resources to make it a lethal force," Zialcita said in a statement earlier.

Vila-Ang; 50

ELIZABETH ANG OF Quezon City died on Monday at the Philippine Heart Center of a lingering illness. She was 50.

She is survived by husband Roseller; children Derek, Trina, Jean Irish, Kim Van, Allyssa; father Dr. Federico Lomibao-Vila and stepmother Belen of Oceanside California, USA; sisters and brothers-in-law: Dra. Agnes Vila-Mata and Jan Mata, and Dra. Cecile Vila Mangosing and Noel Mangosing of Seattle, USA; nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B Loyola Memorial Chapel in Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday after the 9 a.m. Mass.

David-Link® Effective Solution for Time Keeping & Door Access

FINGER SCAN
- Stand-alone capability even without PC
- Network capable
- 30,000 and 50,000 record storage
- 1,000 and 1,500 user capacity

Bundled with Time Management Software

PROXIMITY DEVICE
- 1,000 I.D. capacity
- 30,000 transaction storage
- Register and Identification I.D. card
- Built-in back-up battery

With David-Link you can:
• Reduce tardiness & early departure • Avoid tedious time-keeping tasks • • Eliminate time related •

Call: 890-5310 • 890-5320 • 896-7784 • 890-5327 • 898-3431 / 898-3432
website: www.e-davidlink.com email: kitanophilippines@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT

To the Devotees of the SACRED HEART OF JESUS. Tomorrow, May 5, 2006, is the FIRST FRIDAY of the month. Novenas and statues to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS are given away FREE for Chapels, Hospitals, Schools, etc. Please get them from Jasmine at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City

Best Price Ideal Investment

PASIG ROYALE MANSION — Ready for Occupancy
OXFORD MANSION — Architectural finishing in full swing

New Santolan, Pasig City (near LRT-2 Santolan Station)

Own a unit for as low as P5,300 per month STUDIO
Own a unit for as low as P5,958 per month 1-BEDROOM

Model units ready for viewing
LEADING CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPER Presidential Awardee
2005 CNBC Asia Business Leader Awards Honor Roll (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
CITYLAND 812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894
www.cityland.net investment@cityland.net

Do People Talk Behind Your Back?

You probably have bad breath.

THERABREATH KIT SYSTEM™ is the solution. It's sure to eliminate chronic bad breath condition after 7 days treatment or your money back with no obligation.

Gain confidence. Improve your social life.

Free use of Halmeter for monitoring bad breath condition.

Free delivery within Metro Manila.

Tel No. 890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2466 ; 895-6775
Cel# 0917-796-5859
0920-2267717

PORTABLE & POWER-PACKED Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaners

FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.

Aqua
Yes Made in Italy
Lavamatic TE with Carpet Extractor
Hydra

Exclusively Distributed by CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INC.
MANILA: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA. Tel. Nos. 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 QUEZON AVE. Tel. Nos. 7490581 • 7493709

• You can have a successful career abroad •

Be a CAT Professional

Certified Accounting Technician CAT for Professionals

Competitive Advantage, the leading provider of the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) Program for Accounting and Non-Accounting Professionals is holding its 7th CAT Program on May 27 - June 24, 2006.

Competitive Advantage CAT Program is a world-class training and review for business & accounting professionals.
- Tailored to suit the knowledge and skills level of professionals
- Conducted by an experienced program facilitator with CMA designation
- Focused on developing a strong base of technical accounting competence and analytical, organizational and interpersonal skills.

CMA Philippines conducts the examination and certification.

"CompAdv CAT Program is not just a review but a real program that expands knowledge, acquires new skills, updates one in business, advances one's career, perfects the techniques that you need to increase your value to the organization."

"It's a real Program that upgrades you as a Professional!"

Advantages of C.A.T.
- International recognition in Australia, UK & other commonwealth countries
- Boosts one's career prospects
- Greater chances of working abroad

Register NOW to reserve a Slot!

For inquiries, please contact:
COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE Tel. No. 843.8547
Email: sales@ourcompetitiveadvantage.com

Guaranteed air seats Crk/Kul/Crk via Air Asia (AK) May 11-14 RT Ticket at only Php 8,000

KL+Genting 4D/3N $233 via AK -May 10-May 13 -May 18-May 21 -May 25-May 28
KL+Genting + Sunway Lagoon 5D/4N $298 via AK -May 17-May 21

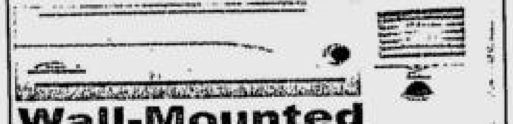
Packages via Air Asia at Fixed Rate regardless of internet fare increase

Kota Kinabalu	3D/2N	via AK	$148
Kuala Lumpur	3D/2N	via AK	$208
KL+Genting Highlands	4D/3N	via AK	$228
Penang + Kuala Lumpur	5D/4N	via AK	$258
Kuala Lumpur + Sunway Lagoon (Day Tour)	4D/3N	via AK	$268
Langkawi + Kuala Lumpur	5D/4N	via AK	$268
Bangkok + Kuala Lumpur	5D/4N	via AK	$298
Kuala Lumpur+Singapore Overland	5D/4N	via AK	$308
Malaysia+Indonesia+Singapore+Brunei	5D/4N	via BI	$401
Kuala Lumpur	3D/2N	via MH	$292
KL+Genting Highlands	4D/3N	via MH	$337

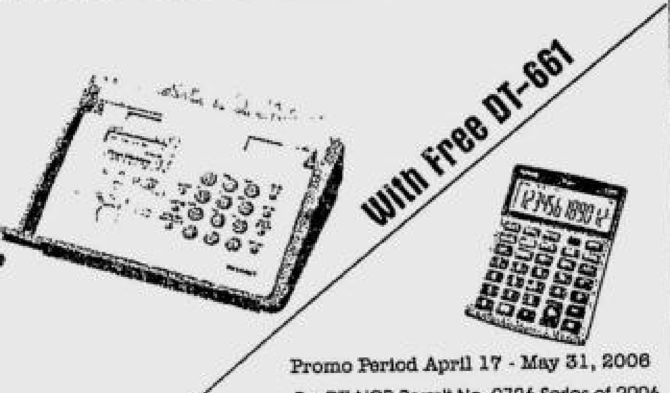
We accept major credit cards for Air Asia Packages at no extra charge.

Boracay 3D/2N PhP7,780 Palawan 3D/2N PhP5,576

WINTREX TRAVEL CORP.
PTAA
2/F DM Building Visayas Avenue
corner Congressional Avenue, Q. C.
www.philtours.com
9257092 * 4264492/93 * 4548528/62 F 456-6145
0917-8394948 * 0917-3285775



idec® AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:2432610,2414731
Available@MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821



SHARP FAX MACHINE
The Smart Choice for Home and Office

FO-71
448 kb out of paper memory
Auto-cutter
30 m. thermal roll
40 auto dialer
5-sheet Automatic Doc. Feeder
15 sec. transmission
64 level Half Tone

PHP. 6,288.00

With Free DT-661

Promo Period April 17 - May 31, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0726 Series of 2006

Available at authorized dealers nationwide.

Distributed by ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
MANILA BRANCH Tel. No.: 634-83 51 to 59
CEBU BRANCH Tel. No.: (032) 344-1185
DAVAO BRANCH Tel. No.: (082) 221-0585

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION EXHIBITION
5-6 May 2006

Venue: Manila A & B
Makati Shangri-La
Ayala Avenue corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City

Time: Friday, 5 May from 2PM to 6PM
Saturday, 6 May from 1PM to 7PM

This FREE exhibition allows you to talk to Australian institution representatives about how you can apply to study in Australia. Please bring transcript and/or resumé.

For more information, please contact:
IDP Education Australia
2F Pioneer House Makati
108 Paseo de Roxas
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel: 02 816 0755 • Fax: 02 815 9875
Email: info@manila.idp.com

idp EDUCATION AUSTRALIA
students.idp.com
The experts in Australian Education

Participating institutions:
[illegible] Le Cordon Bleu [illegible] The University of Newcastle
Shafston International College [illegible] Institute of TAFE • University of Canberra

In support of human resource development for Filipino youth

Be a scholar in Singapore

The Ministry of Education (Singapore) is pleased to offer ASEAN Scholarships to outstanding students for studies in selected secondary schools and junior colleges in Singapore, leading to the General Certificate of Education (Advanced) Level Examination. The scholarships are offered in line with the Singapore Government's long term objective of helping our ASEAN neighbours develop human resource.

Scholars enter Singapore schools at Secondary 3 (3rd year High School) and will sit for the GCE 'A' Level (or equivalent) Examination at the end of Pre-University 2. Those who score good grades in the GCE 'A' Level Examination can continue their undergraduate studies at the National University of Singapore (NUS) or Nanyang Technological University (NTU) on scholarships or bursaries that the universities administer.

Who can apply

Applicants must :
- be Filipinos born between 1990 – 1992
- have done consistently well in their school examinations
- have completed at least their 2nd year of High School. Preference will be given to applicants who have scored good grades in their 3rd year High School Examinations.

A good record of participation in co-curricular activities would be an advantage.

Value of Award
- Scholarship allowance of S$2,200 (approx 72,000 Pesos) [Secondary]/ S$2,400 (approx 79,000 pesos) [Pre-University] per annum with hostel accommodation
- S$200 settling-in allowance (once only)
- Exemption from school fees
- Exemption from donation to the Education Fund for study in Singapore schools
- Mathematics bridging course
- Return economy air-passage to and from Singapore at the start and end of the scholarship term
- Subsidized medical benefits
- 24-hour accident and insurance cover

Application

Application forms with more details on the scholarship can be obtained from any of the following addresses:

Embassy of the Republic of Singapore
35th Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines

or

Ministry Of Education
School Placement & Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section,
3rd Level, Podium Block
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675

More information on the scholarship and request for application forms can be obtained through our website at:
http://www.moe.gov.sg/aseanscholarships/

Request for application forms by post from the Singapore Embassy must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 16cm by 23cm). The envelopes should be marked 'ASEAN Scholarships for the Philippines' at the top left-hand corner.

Closing Date

Completed application forms, together with relevant supporting documents, must reach the Singapore Ministry of Education by June 9, 2006

THERE IS NO BOND ATTACHED TO THE SCHOLARSHIP

We regret that incomplete applications and/or applications received after the closing date will not be entertained.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for a selection test in July and attend an interview in August 2006. Successful candidates will arrive in Singapore in early November to attend a Mathematics bridging course before joining Singapore schools in January 2007.

RP now 2nd most dangerous for labor unions

By Marlon Ramos,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Jerome Aning *in Manila*

CALAMBA CITY—THE PHILIPPINES IS FAST becoming the most dangerous place for labor unions after Colombia, a US-based labor rights advocacy group said Tuesday as members of a 12-nation International Labor Solidarity Mission fanned out to various provinces to investigate killings, abductions and other attacks on labor leaders and supporters.

Brian Campbell, an officer of the International Labor Rights Fund, said his group and the others were alarmed over the attacks on trade union leaders in the country, some of whom worked in factories owned by multinational corporations from the United States and Europe.

ILRF is a group of lawyers based in Washington, D.C., which helps families of murdered union leaders file criminal cases against corporations suspected of complicity in the killings.

Spate of killings

The spate of labor killings in the Philippines now matches the notoriety of Colombia, which is the most dangerous country for labor unions, Campbell told the INQUIRER shortly after he arrived here as part of a group that is looking into recent attacks on labor leaders in the Southern Tagalog region.

"The Philippines is becoming one of the worst countries that I've (visited). What is more disturbing is that it takes less and less to provoke the killings," he said.

Last week, Gerry Cristobal, president of a union in a semiconductor firm in Cavite, was critically wounded in a shooting involving an intelligence operative in Imus, Cavite. Militant groups said that, contrary to what the police had earlier reported, it was Cristobal who was ambushed.

Campbell and the other members of the solidarity mission hope to increase pressure on the Arroyo government to act swiftly on the murders of labor leaders.

Campbell said the ILRF was currently involved in at least 12 cases where it represents workers on a banana plantation in Guatemala and a German-owned coal company in Colombia.

Dark side of globalization

Campbell said in some countries he had visited, corporations with mother companies in the US and Europe were suspected to have been involved in ordering the slayings of union leaders.

"The people in the US don't have a full understanding of how it is like to be a worker in the Philippines," he said. "It is important that they know what the companies, which they believe are good citizens, are doing here. They should understand that there is a dark side to this globalization and capitalism."

Among the countries with representatives on the solidarity mission are the United States, Belgium, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The mission was organized by the local Center for Trade Union and Human Rights, the Ecumenical Institute for Labor Education and Research, and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers.

Some of the other teams have already arrived in Bulacan, Tarlac and Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), while others were on their way to Compostela Valley and the island of Negros, according to mission spokesperson Daisy Arago.

"They will talk to the victims and survivors of politically related incidents of violence including those who experienced harassment, abduction and torture because of their trade-union and political activities in their factories and communities," added Arago, who is also executive director of the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights.

Unmasking the killers

The delegates will visit the families of those who were killed and gather first-hand information on the circumstances around the killings.

"We aim to unmask the perpetrators of these heinous crimes which killed more than 60 unionists, labor leaders and advocates since 2001," Arago said.

Arago said the success of the mission would depend on the cooperation of the authorities.

"We expect harassment from local military and police forces but we are determined to push through with the work," she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Aside from the killings, disappearances and abductions, the mission members will also document torture and violations of privacy and intrusions into the workers homes and families.

The mission is expected to present its report in Manila on May 7. Mission members and local labor rights advocates are to meet with the Commission on Human Rights the following day, Arago said.

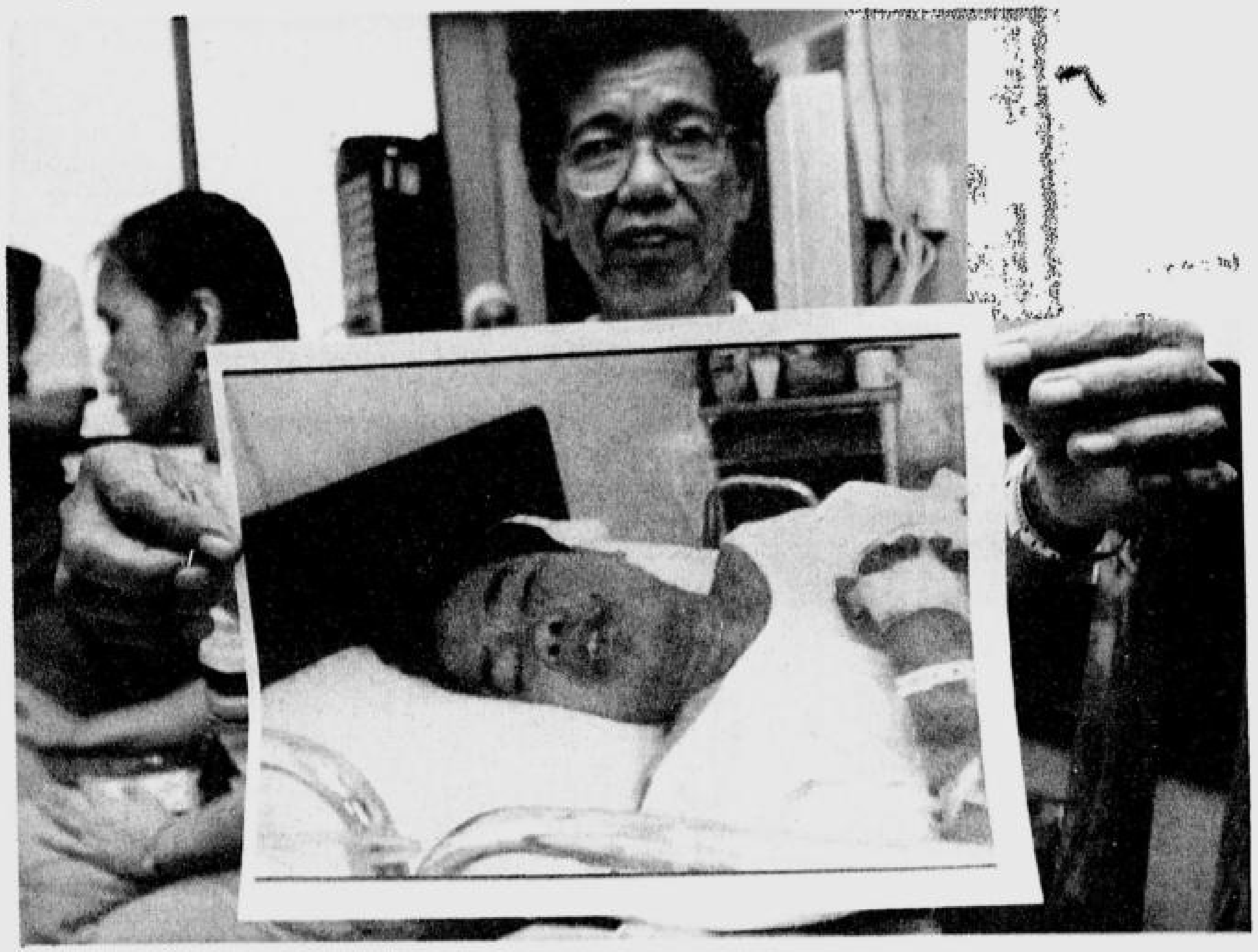
In Tarlac, the killings to be investigated are those of Ricardo Ramos, former president of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union; Tirso Cruz, a leader of the United Luisita Workers' Union; Bayan Muna-Tarlac secretary general Florante Collantes; and Tarlac City councilor Abelardo Ladera.

Christmas Day torture

In Bulacan, the mission will investigate the murders of Federico de Leon, provincial chair of the Anakpawis Party; Rogelio Concepcion, union president of Solid Development Corp.; and Francisco Paraon, who was illegally detained, interrogated and tortured on Christmas day last year.

In Calabarzon, the delegates will focus on the killings of Nestle Philippines union president Diosdado Fortuna, Alliance of Concerned Teachers national council member Napoleon Pomasdoro and Honda Workers' Union president Romeo Legazpi.

In Negros and southern Mindanao, the mission will study the plight of sugar and banana plantation workers, respectively. They will also look into the murders of at least four leaders of the National Federation of Sugar Workers, a KMU affiliate in the sugar industry.



VICTIM. Pedro Cristobal holds out a picture of his son Gerry, a labor leader who was shot allegedly by the military in Cavite on April 28.
RAFFY LERMAN

"Imagine what it would be like to motivate, influence and persuade people to agree to pratically anything you propose." - Matt Gill

THE 27 KILLER SALES TACTICS that will EXPLODE Your SALES!

May 31, 2006, 1:00pm - 5:00 pm, Holiday Inn Galleria

- * The **5 Magical Ways** to make the **Client Trust You** instantly
- * How to make the customers buy your idea: **6 Powerful Tools**
- * The **4 Psychological Triggers** that turn your prospects on
- * The **5 Potent Presentation Techniques** to win the sale
- * Reading Body Language: **4 Invaluable Tips**
- * How to create a sense of urgency: **3 Essential Methods**
- * **BONUS** TOPICS:
  - > Tips to **Set an Appointment** with the decision maker
  - > Review of the **6 Basic Presentation Techniques**
  - > The art of sensory presentation: **3 Mental Maps**

SEMINAR INVESTMENT
>>> EARLY BIRD until May 24 <<< P 1,345 + VAT
>>> REGULAR RATE starting May 25 <<< P 1,695 + VAT
(Inclusive of handouts, certificates and snacks)

CALL us NOW for INQUIRIES and RESERVATIONS
PORTER & MILES, INC. Look for MERCY 6387719 / 20 / 6376884
fax number: 6376890 email: porterandmiles@yahoo.com website:www.pmi.com.ph

INQUIRER JOB Market APCEI UK
www.yehey.com

ATT GROUP OF COMPANIES

We are looking for Qualified entrepreneurs in the VISAYAS and MINDANAO (VISMIN) area to set up a plastic bottle manufacturing company & become one of our LICENSED MANUFACTURER!

ATT GROUP

Also offering Bottling SET-UP on a per Province basis

What is PET Plastic Bottle Manufacturing (LICENSED MANUFACTURER)?
It is a facility which allows you to produce or manufacture PET plastic bottles from 50 ml up to 5 gallon of whatever shape size and color.

What is the Market?
The VISMIN market esp. the areas far from the metropolis is waiting for a locally established plastic plant for its various needs (water refilling/ virgin oil / perfume & soap industry/juice and beverages and etc.) Because most of them still get their supplies from as far as Manila or only from the key cities in VISMIN.

Blowmold Benefits:
- ➔ Free lay-out design of the factory
- ➔ Free consultation on building requirements
- ➔ Free installation & set-up of machines
- ➔ Endorsement of Franchise Clients in the area of operation
- ➔ Free technical training & maintenance assistance
- ➔ Readily available raw materials (preform) at competitive cost
- ➔ Exclusivity (for licensed manufacturer) in the assigned area of operation

Hurry!!! Few Slots Open...

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL:
CEBU REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS
Unit 6, 7 & 8, A & S Bldg., A. C. Cortez Ave., Mandaue City, Cebu 6014
TEL.# (032) 344-6473/ 344-5861 Toll Free 1800-10-288-2328
Mobile no. 0917-6258188

RP gets high rating from Sokor tourists

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES OBTAINED A 94-percent satisfaction rating in a recent survey conducted among South Korean tourists, indicating the country's emergence as the Koreans' most favored travel destination.

The first quarter survey conducted by the Korea Travel Times on a country-by-country basis showed 34 percent of 937 polled were "very much satisfied" with their Philippine experience, and 60 percent "fairly satisfied."

The Koreans' favorite Philippine destinations are Boracay, which got 32 percent; followed by Cebu, 29 percent; and Manila, 26 percent.

As to the most enticing feature of the Philippines, natural unpolluted environment topped the Korean survey with 35 percent, followed by reasonable travel expenses with 21 percent, and marine sports with 16 percent.

Korea Times, founded in 1950, is an English-language daily in South Korea with a daily circulation of about a million.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, in a statement, welcomed the results of the survey, saying it explained the continued influx of Korean tourists to the Philippines.

Half a million Koreans traveled to the Philippines last year, making South Korea the country's second-largest source of foreign tourists, after the United States.

In January and February this year, 106,000 Koreans arrived, overtaking Americans, who numbered only 97,000. The Korean tourists accounted for nearly a third of 440,000 foreign arrivals.

On the purpose of the trips, 26 percent of those surveyed cited family tour, and 17 percent honeymoon. Weekend travel, backpackers, and business trip accounted for 12 to 13 percent each.

"This indicates that the Philippines now looms as a honeymoon destination for Korean newly weds, who used to pick Phuket, Thailand and Bali, Indonesia for that purpose," Durano said.

Even those who have not yet gone to the Philippines are interested in going.

Of the 3,431 respondents who have not yet been to the Philippines, 3,160 or 92 percent expressed willingness to visit the archipelago in two years. Asked how willing they were to visit the Philippines, 47 percent said "very much" and 45 percent "fairly much."

ATS ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS
ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ATS)

WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST CURRENT STOCKHOLDERS OF THE ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ATS) TO UPDATE THEIR RECORDS WITH THE STOCK TRANSFER AGENT, SECURITIES TRANSFER SERVICES, INC. (STSI), FOR PROPER DOCUMENTATION AND ENSURE THAT STOCKHOLDERS WOULD RECEIVE ALL COMMUNICATION FROM ATS.

STOCKHOLDERS ARE ADVISED TO UPDATE THEIR RECORDS IN PERSON; BRING TWO (2) VALID IDENTIFICATION CARDS (IDs) WITH SIGNATURES, AND PHOTOCOPIES OF THE IDs; AND PRESENT THEIR TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN) TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

SECURITIES TRANSFER SERVICES INC.
4/F Benpres Building
Meralco Avenue corner Exchange Road, Pasig City
Tel. No. 631-8024 to 30

Signed:
Tiu, Helen Go
HELEN G. TIU
Corporate Secretary

ATS

ABOITIZ TRANSPORT SYSTEM (ATSC) CORPORATION
(formerly William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc.)
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
PLACE: Quezon B & C Function Rooms, Makati Shangri-La,
Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City
DATE: May 25, 2006
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

Dear Stockholder:
You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Aboitiz Transport System (ATSC) Corporation (the "Company"), formerly William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc., which will be held on May 25, 2006 at Quezon B & C Function Rooms, Makati Shangri-La Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City at 2:00 PM. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum
4. Approval of Minutes of the Stockholders' Meeting held on June 17, 2005
5. Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2005
6. Election of the Board of Directors
7. Appointment of External Auditor
8. Additional investment in Zoom-in-Package, Inc.
9. Amendment of Article 7 of the Articles of Incorporation to add a convertibility feature to the redeemable preferred shares so as to allow holders of redeemable preferred shares, at their option, to convert every redeemable preferred share into two (2) common shares of the Company, which conversion must be exercised on or before December 29, 2006 or within 120 days from the approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission of such amendment, whichever occurs earlier.
10. Approval and Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management for the period covering 11 May 2005 to 27 April 2006
11. Such Other Matters as may properly come before it
12. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record in the books of the Company at the close of business on April 24, 2006 will be entitled to vote at said stockholders' meeting.

Manila, Philippines, April 28, 2006.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
By:
Tiu, Helen Go
HELEN G. TIU
Corporate Secretary

Brokers say 'boycott' was act of protest, not sabotage

By Leila B. Salaverria

CUSTOMS BROKERS DID NOT FILE import entries at Manila's two major seaports last Tuesday simply to highlight their grievances against the government and not to sabotage the Bureau of Customs' collection of import duties, a spokesman for the brokers said yesterday.

Samson Gabisan of the Samahan ng mga Personero sa Aduana (SPA) said the group's action was meant to inform Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales that the brokers were protesting his antismuggling task force's seizure of shipments that had already been released by the bureau.

Import entries are the basis for the collection of taxes and duties on imports.

"We just wanted to let him know about our problems; that's only our intention," Gabisan said in a telephone interview. "I don't think it will affect the monthly collection, but on the day of the non-filing, the record will probably show that the collection was lesser than usual."

Gabisan had earlier estimated that the Port of Manila at the South Harbor and the Manila International Container Port at the North Harbor could have lost about P30 million each as a result of the brokers' action.

He said some of his association's members had wanted the non-filing of import entries to last for more than a day, but the body decided that one day was enough.

The SPA, which is based at the Port of Manila at the South Harbor, was joined in the protest by the Aksyon Agad Samahan ng mga Personero at Personera, the association of brokers operating at the Manila International Container Port at the North Harbor.

Morales, in meeting with both groups during the protest, explained that some of the shipments had to be seized even after they had been cleared because the authorities discovered that the goods had either been misdeclared or undervalued and, therefore, were not slapped the proper taxes.

"All these are being done to collect the proper taxes and give the government its due," Morales told the brokers.

The Bureau of Customs is tasked to collect P191.5 billion in 2006. It has exceeded its monthly collection target for the past four months.

Gabisan told the INQUIRER the brokers were pleased that Morales met with them and gave them a chance to present their problems, even though not all of their requests were granted.

"We're happy enough that the Commissioner talked with us and we were able to present our side. We want to cooperate with him. We just want what's good for everyone," he said.

The brokers requested that the apprehended shipments be brought to the Port of Manila instead of at the Harbor Center, which supposedly lacks facilities. Morales said he would study the request.

No environment permit issued to La Mesa housing

Blanche S. Rivera

THE PLANNED HOUSING project for government employees inside the La Mesa watershed does not have the environmental compliance certificate required by the government, agencies under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said.

The old National Waterworks and Sewerage Administration (Nawasa), now the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, has not applied for an ECC either with the Environmental Management Bureau or the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

"There's no pending application in our EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) unit … No one has contacted us about it, not even the Lopez group," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said in a phone interview yesterday.

WE'VE GOT THE PERFECT SOLUTION TO YOUR NEEDS.
BIG TOP
Heavy-duty collapsible tents. Best for construction sites or as warehouses with sidings.
OTHER PRODUCTS :
• AWNINGS & CANOPIES • CAR TENTS • GARDEN / PARTY TENTS • CAMPING TENTS • PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT • EVENT TENTS & STAGE RENTALS
tenthaus
2/F Villafuerte III Bldg., 279 Alabang-Zapote Road, Pamplona Las Piñas City
LAS PIÑAS CITY 872-3788 • 872-9067
QUEZON CITY 27 KAMIAS 922-0432
FAX: 872-2332 E-mail: tenthaus888@yahoo.com AFTER OFFICE HOURS : 874-5437

www.sountex.com
Helping those who can't hear well hear better...
Mrs. Alice Tan
Grandmother
Hearing loss is not something you need to just "live with". We have the solution that can help you hear better.
At Sountex, the hearing test is prompt, precise and painless. If you are unable to come in for a test, we can arrange for you to take it in the comfort of your own home. For the center nearest you, call us today and we'll be happy to schedule a "no obligation" FREE HEARING TEST.
867-1916
RECOGNIZED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
Hearing Solutions from Siemens

Ateneo de Manila University
John Gokongwei School Of Management
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACADEMY 2006

GETTING YOU STARTED
May 16 Tuesday 9am-5pm
Bobbi Makani-Lim
Square One: Preparing a Winning Business Plan
Get back to basics in starting your business and prepare a road map for your success.

May 30 Tuesday 9am-5pm
Claro Certeza with Ricky Mercado
Evaluating Franchising Opportunities
You want to start working for yourself. Tap the wide range of availabilities & select the right franchise for you.

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS
May 17 Wed & 19 Fri 9am-12:30pm
Dr. Darwin Yu
Counting Your Eggs: Introduction to Accounting Principles
Use accounting to keep score of your business. More importantly, understand what the numbers mean.

May 17 Wed & 19 Fri 1:30-5pm
Dr. Darwin Yu
Achieving Your Financial Targets: Managerial Accounting
Equip yourself with the analytical tools to relate operational decisions to the bottom line.

May 18 Thursday 9am-5pm
Amor Santiago
Personal Touch: Effective Human Resource Management for SMEs
Improve your ability to manage your human resource effectively and feel its effect on the bottomline!

May 24 Wed & 26 9am-12:30pm
Chito Tanchoco
Streamline Your Operations: Managing Your Inputs
Know & understand materials management and inventory, operations design & economic order quantity.

May 24 Wed & 26 1:30-5pm
Chito Tanchoco
Managing Your Logistics
Understand scheduling, routing selection and unit load handling.

May 29 Monday 9am-5pm
Ma. Nanette A. Biason
Cutting a Deal: Financing and Funding Sources for Your Business
Use financial institutions to raise capital for your growing company.

FAMILY BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
May 31 Wednesday 9am-5pm
Badjie Guerrero & CCA Team
Restaurant Management
Learn the basics of the food business. Assess and understand the market situation.

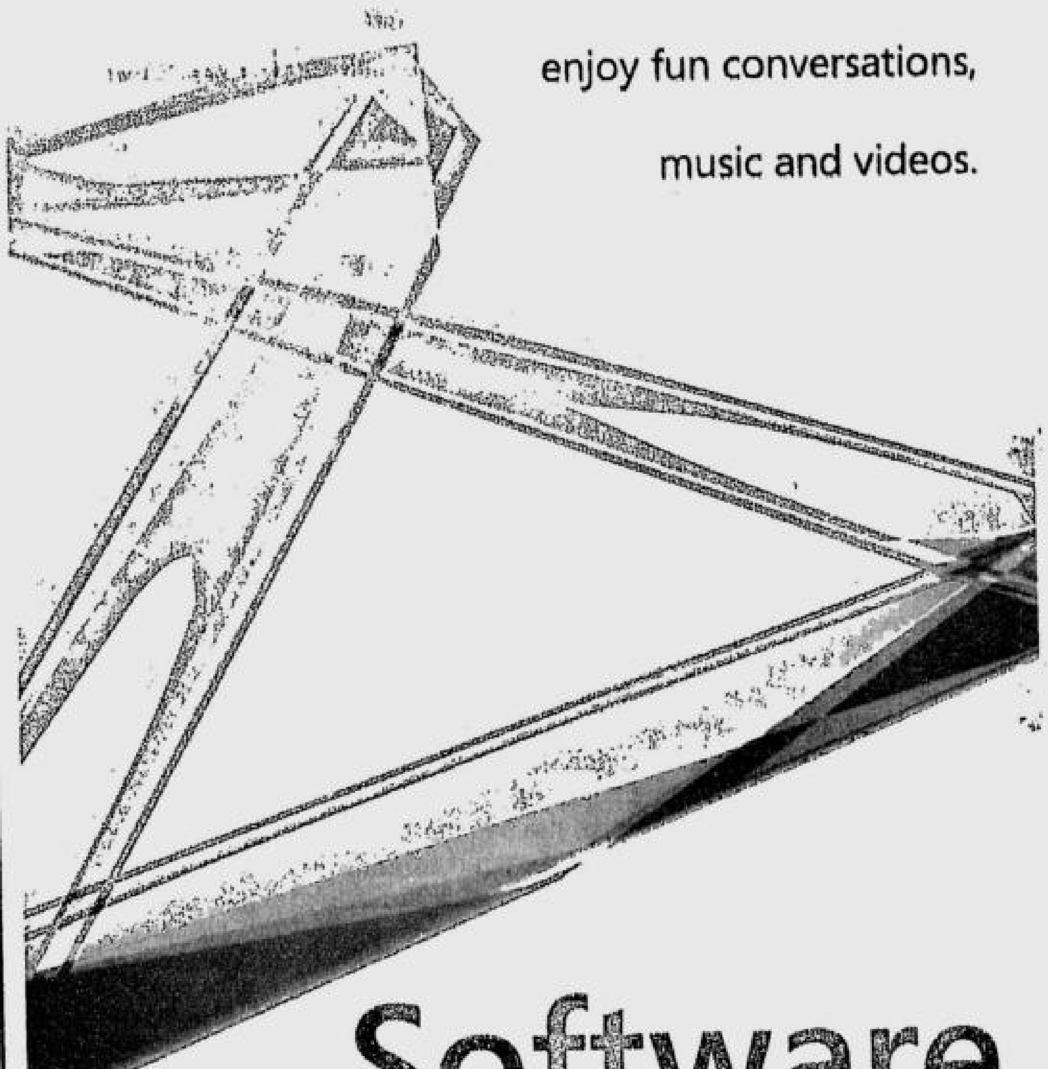
June 2 Friday 9am-5pm
Ricky Mercado & Team
Crafting Your Family Constitution
This encapsulates the founder's beliefs and ideals; the road map that provides the guidance for the subsequent generations to follow!

June 1 Thursday 9am-5pm
Ricky Mercado & Team
Strategic Planning and Professionalizing the Business
Learn about strategies for professionalizing family businesses.

Early Bird Rate: P3,150 (until May 10 only!)
Regular Rate: P3,500
Avail of the 4+1 Incentive!
FOR COMPANIES: Register four (4) representatives from your company for the series and you get an additional one (1) representative to join them for **FREE!**
FOR INDIVIDUALS: Register for four (4) sessions and get a 5th session **FREE!**

VENUE:
All sessions will be conducted at the John Gokongwei School of Management Ateneo de Manila University Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Build your business, hone your skills.
Call 849-6911 and register now!
brought to you by:
The John Gokongwei School of Management Ateneo de Manila University
and
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Grow your SME BUSINESS LOAN
Payments can be made by cash or check.



You call it mobility.
We call it software innovation.
Keep yourself connected through Windows Mobile 5.0-powered devices and other wireless technologies that let you enjoy fun conversations, music and videos.
Software Innovations
Philippines 2006
May 8-10, 2006, Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City, Philippines
Presented by: Microsoft
Global Media Partner FORTUNE
Special Diamond Sponsors intel GCASH
Official Wireless Provider Globe QUEST
Official Laptop Supplier ASUS
Official Appliance Provider LG
Official ID Provider
Mobile Device Providers hp Dopod
Partner Institutions dti Department of Trade and Industry
Philippine Board of Investments
PSIA Philippine Software Industry Association
The Commission on Information and Communications Technology
CITEM Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions
BPAP Business Processing Association Philippines
Media Sponsors: NEWSMAX
Official Radio Broadcast Partner
Official Television Broadcast Partner
www.microsoft.com.ph/softwareinnovations

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 145

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Circulation Customer Service Hotline 896-6000

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
Managing Editor **JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO**
Associate Editor **ABELARDO S. ULANDAY**
Associate Editor for Readership **ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO**
News Editor **ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **NILO B. PAUROM**
Opinion Editor **JORGE V. ARUTA**
National Editor **PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.**
Senior Desk Editor **JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.**
Editorial Consultant **AMANDO DORONILA**
Chief Photographer **ERNIE U. SARMIENTO**
Art & Design Director **LYNETT A. VILLARIBA**

Board Chairman **MARIXI R. PRIETO**
President **ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ**
Executive Vice President **DAVID O. VALDES**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **RENATO R. REINOSO**
VP for Advertising **FELIPE R. OLARTE**
AVP for Circulation **SANDY SIMON R. YAP**

Readers' Advocate **LORNA KALAW TIROL**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Insult and defiance

EDITORIALS

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE IS QUITE WELL-KNOWN to have a temper that occasionally finds expression in unparliamentary language. But never have his angry outbursts been more justified as when he raged and ranted against the failure of two Cabinet members and the internal revenue commissioner to testify before a Senate committee hearing on several economic measures earlier this week.

The Senate committee on ways and means, headed by Sen. Ralph Recto, had earlier invited Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Internal Revenue Commissioner Jose Buñag and Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales to attend the committee hearing scheduled for Tuesday. The hearing was called to discuss three pending bills: one seeking the reduction of the individual income tax rates; another one rationalizing fiscal incentive; and the third proposing measures to curb smuggling. Only Morales honored the invitation. But Teves, Favila and Buñag didn't show up at all, and didn't even bother to send any explanation. Instead, they sent their underlings, prompting Enrile to ask whether these heads of offices still gave any importance to the hearings of Congress.

Enrile reminded the administration's key economic managers that they were being asked to explain how they could solve some of the country's economic problems and that they were being asked to do so by the people's elected representatives. "And if you don't want to do it, the hell with you!" he thundered.

Malacañang sought to justify the snub of the Senate by doing what it seems to be doing frequently these days: lying through its teeth. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said, "We are not aware of the hearing, and neither did the officials ask for the President's consent to attend."

Maybe Defensor should start wearing a brace on his nose instead of on his teeth before it becomes longer than Pinocchio's. On the day the trade and finance officials made themselves scarce, the newspapers reported they were expected at the Senate hearing.

If Defensor has not made it a habit to read newspapers yet, he really should. Because if he did, he would have known that Cabinet members do not need the President's clearance to testify in hearings called by Congress in aid of legislation. That was what the Supreme Court said in its recent decision voiding parts of Executive Order 464, which sought precisely to keep Congress from inquiring into anything that the executive branch was doing.

Thus, by refusing the Senate investigation, these officials did not only show disrespect to the Senate, as Enrile put it; they also defied the Supreme Court and committed something illegal. And no one, not even Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, should tell them that it's all right to continue doing what the Court has already deemed to be illegal, just because the decision (which the Court reached unanimously) has yet to become final and executory.

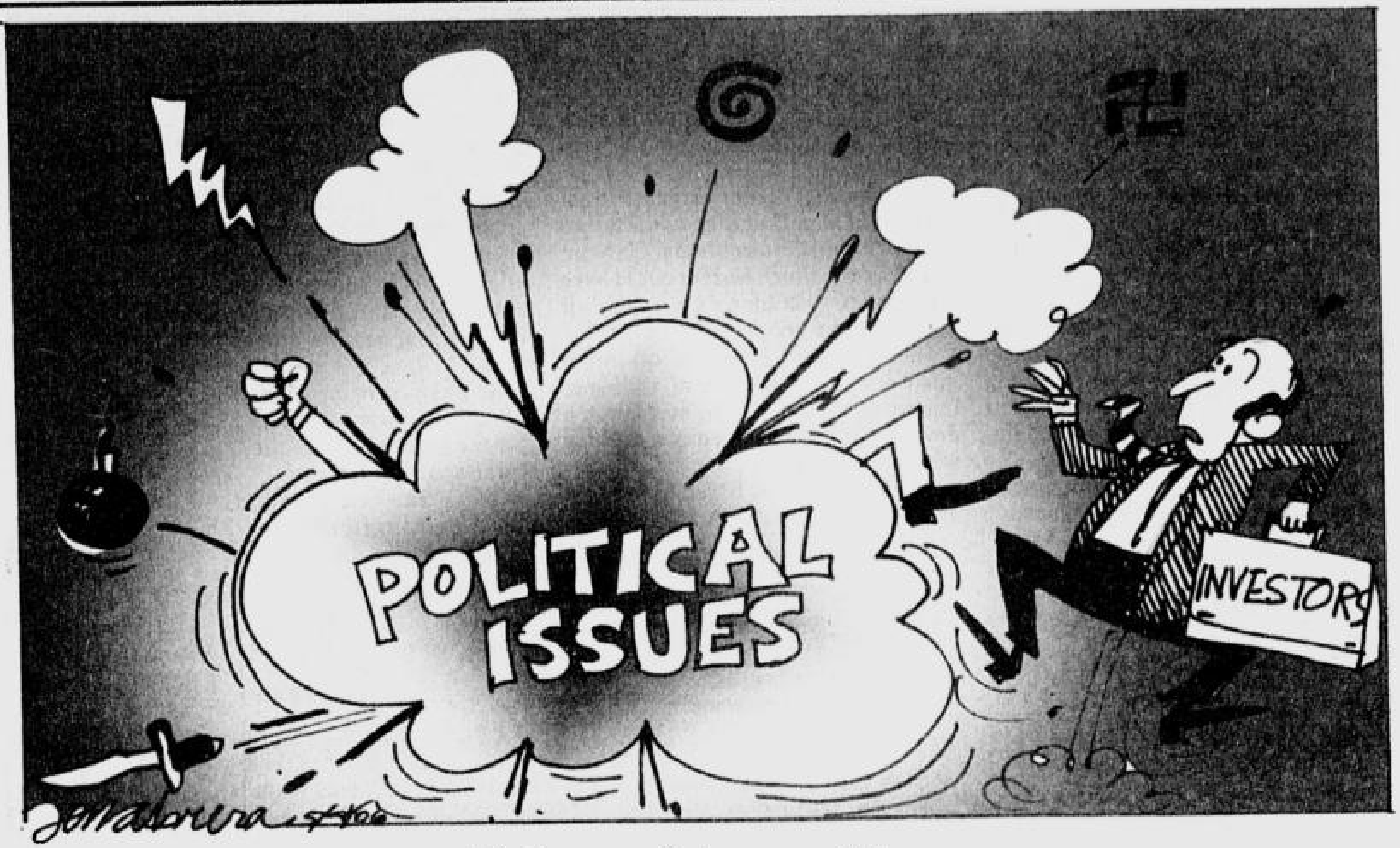
Maximum tolerance

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHAMELESS, BOORISH motorists and inept, idiotic policemen converge in one place? Chaos and a traffic jam extending some five kilometers.

Which was exactly what happened late in the afternoon of Labor Day on the highway from Dinalupihan in Bataan leading to Barangay Sta. Cruz in Lubao, Pampanga. There was no accident or road repair to slow down traffic, and, of course, no policeman to direct it. What there was in abundance were thoughtless drivers who believed it was their God-given right to get ahead of everybody else. So they occupied the right shoulder, and the opposite lane, and the opposite shoulder as well, clogging the highway at certain points.

But Monday wasn't just one of those days apparently. The same thing happened Saturday morning, going the opposite way. What made Monday's experience the more remarkable was the attitude of four police officers (three males and one female) at a checkpoint in Sta. Cruz. None of them moved to apprehend any of the offending drivers, even as they cut into the right lane from the opposite side right in front of them. And when one exasperated motorist demanded to know why they were not citing anyone for violating traffic, guess what one policeman screamed in reply? "Go, and arrest them yourself!"

In the President's hometown, they must have different traffic rules. Or they have policemen who believe it is the citizen's duty to enforce laws—not theirs.



Tales of two cities

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

VISITORS TO OUR CITIES ARE OFTEN appalled by the garbage, traffic gridlock, water shortages and urban blight. That's bad. The more discerning are stunned by trash passed off as "urban policy." That's worse.

"Any city, however small, is in fact divided into two: one the city of the poor, the other of the rich," Plato wrote 400 years before Christ.

Mounting population and economic change have long dispersed these fragmented urban clusters beyond their old paper borders. They've spilled over into suburban "edge cities."

Yet, many officials act as if tomorrow's cities will simply be more of the decrepit. We know, in our bones, this situation won't carry us very far. Poverty, population and expectations, stoked by information revolution, are "imploding" Plato's fractured cities.

Today, the mayors of 65 cities are debating the Asian Institute of Management's Philippine Cities Competitiveness Ranking Project.

Davao, Las Piñas, Makati, Marikina and Muntinlupa topped the metro category. Why Cebu didn't measure up flummoxed Mayor Tomas Osmeña.

Bacolod and Iloilo were among mid-size city topnotchers. Naga made it again, in the small city category, with Tagbilaran and Tagum, among others.

Some upset mayors are conducting in-house reviews. These signal that the AIM objective—"to promote healthy competition among Philippine cities"—is being partly achieved.

Many city officials, however, think small and old. Now, they must think different and new, if their cities are to break out of stagnation.

Will this reverse the "multiplying cities" trend? In 1995, there were 60 cities. Today, we have 117. Talisay and Naga, in Cebu province, want to join the club. So do a dozen others.

The tougher chores, however, lie ahead: how to mount sustained policies and programs to make cities engines for economic growth, and at the same time keep them livable.

The formula for success is not new. But it is, as G.K. Chesterton said, rarely tried. "Foremost is the leadership value of the local government officials," AIM says. Next are "a strong support system, offered by business alliances and responsive civil society."

The simplest definition of good governance still remains the best: "the way those with power wisely use that power." And Princeton University's Robert Putnam identifies "four pillars" of that nugget of wisdom, namely:

1. Transparency: Is there consistent access to relevant, timely and understandable information? This is critical with budgets and conflict-of-interest issues.

Naga City publishes and posts on the Internet its budget, data on awarded bids, etc. This trimmed waste and graft. Cebu City backtracked on a similar plan, which would have thrown Mayor Osmeña's secrecy-blanketed yen loans open to public scrutiny.

Lack of clarity is partly due to flabby internal controls (over funds) in local governments, says the ADB in its decentralization study. This infects cities and provinces, down to barangays. Of 1,689 local government units audited, only 250 proved squeaky clean. City Halls often bog down in overpricing and procurement scandals.

2. Accountability: Are officials held to account? Or can they get away unquestioned, unscathed, for arbitrary decisions?

Mayors who offer time-bound performance targets are the exception. Most of them mouth motherhood rhetoric. A constructive opposition is essential in pinning down responsibility. A press that is always moving on to the next headline often leaves follow-up questions unasked.

3. Predictability: Are laws and rules fair, clear, known in advance and uniformly enforced?

Mayor Osmeña decided to funnel local taxes away from Lahug—where the multi-awarded barangay leader Mary Ann de los Santos presides—to other barangays where his partisans rule. The only predictability is the unpredictability of political whim.

4. Participation: The growth of civil society and information media is reshaping citizen participation, specially in oversight functions.

In Abra, a community group helped "audit" public works projects. It earned the respect of the government and people such that it was included in the bids and awards committee. But it also triggered an assassination. "Such examples are celebrated because they seem to require willingness to take risks in a political environment that is permissive about civil and political violence," ADB notes.

In the future, the World Bank says, cities will need to turn away from obsolete 19th-century models where the City Hall provides most infrastructure and service that are invariably shoddy and inadequate.

"Cities around the world are divided into those who can provide for their own needs and those who cannot .... (City Halls) often cater to one part of a city and, at best, adopt a posture of benign neglect toward the other. (These) make the divisions even deeper."

Shouldn't city governments, therefore, trim their tattered sails "as primary service providers"? the bank asks. Its alternative role should be that of an "enabler." City Hall would instead rely increasingly on the private sector to deliver basic services.

Successful partnership-based models are "described as 'the quiet revolution' in local governance," the bank observes. And the AIM project seeks to help mayors grope their way to these new models.

"In the present lies not only the nightmare of what the city will become if current trends continue," Anne Spirin writes in "The Granite Garden." It also contains "dreams of what the city could be."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Breeding

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JO SMITH-MEDINA HAD A THOUGHT-provoking letter last Tuesday in our Letters section. She said that she disagreed with me, she did not think what Theresa Pangilinan did was cause for praise, she thought it was cause for shame.

"I believe that Pangilinan graduated without learning basic good manners and right conduct. It's not wrong to express one's feelings. But there's a place for everything. Panganiban could have said her piece in some other place but not during a graduation ceremony… A person can go through college but end up still uneducated… Attitude is very important. The sum of all these is called breeding. This you cannot get from any school."

Before anything else, I'm glad that Medina, a 17-year-old, has the independence of mind to express her own thoughts on the matter. I'm glad that Medina, a youth who I take it is either a college freshman or is about to become one, has a capacity for introspection and aspiration, two things that are fast disappearing from our midst. There's hope for this country yet.

But I beg to disagree with her position. First off, surely all her criticisms apply more to the guest speaker in the graduation than to the student who heckled her. Let us substitute "GMA" for "Pangilinan" in some parts of Medina's letter and see if that isn't so.

"I believe that GMA graduated without learning basic good manners and right conduct." That is at least completely arguable and at most everywhere patent. I made a case for it when GMA deigned to lecture media to be truthful and responsible after she declared 1017. She is the last person to lecture anyone about truthfulness and responsibility. People who cannot conduct themselves responsibly in elections or tell the truth at any time have no business demanding that others hark to those virtues. If GMA should be the guest speaker in a forum on how journalists should do their job, I'd heckle her, too. I don't know what they teach the children these days, but in my time we were taught that it's not good manners and right conduct to lie, cheat and steal.

"GMA could have said her piece in some other place but not in a graduation ceremony." GMA has no lack of media outlets, Channel 4 being chief of them, a thing that as in Marcos' time we are paying for to lie to us; and mouthpieces in government and in media to give the youth the message that to get ahead in life they need not speak the truth, they need only speak English. Did she have to inflict herself on a graduation ceremony, too? Graduations are blessed occasions, a time for graduates to brim with lofty thoughts and ideals. The guest speakers you get there are living examples you want the youth to emulate. GMA is the living example you want the youth to emulate?

I agree: getting through college doesn't naturally make you educated or enlightened, and getting a Ph.D. in Economics doesn't naturally make you civil or well-bred. That is not a counsel best addressed to the heckler, that is a counsel best addressed at the heckled.

But is Pangilinan equally guilty of censurable or reprehensible behavior? There, too, I would disagree. I go back to the story of the emperor and his new clothes. You have a world where people are compelled, under pain of looking foolish, to believe that a naked Emperor is wearing clothes of intricate weave, you need a boy who will shout insolently with voice of innocence, "Why, the emperor is *bomba!*" to rouse everyone from their delusion.

We've become that world. We are not only learning to accept baseness and shamelessness as necessary, we are learning to accept them as exemplary. We are not just allowing ourselves to be coerced into silence in the face of iniquity, we are allowing ourselves to believe being silent is the only way to "move on." You have GMA no longer ashamed of what she did during the last election—or well before it when she lied to the people about not running ever to spare them never-ending divisiveness—indeed, you have GMA going on to parade herself before the kids as mentor and role model, then the kids have every right to fight back. Then the kids have every right to tell their elders who are being stupid while trying to appear wise: "You blind fools, can't you see the emperor is stark raving naked?"

In normal circumstances, Pangilinan's behavior would have been cause for dismay, but in these extraordinary times, it is cause for elation. There's a time and place for everything? Agreed. But in a time and place where witnesses to wrongdoing are being prevented from witnessing in the Senate, and protesters to that same wrongdoing are being prevented from protesting in the streets; in a time and place where the citizens are being told that they may say their piece only in the time and place—and manner—a fake president designates, what else is there but to rebel? What else is there but to see that, in a tyranny, the time and place and way to protest is every time and everywhere and every way?

Breeding is nice. But being polite in the face of injustice is not breeding, it is acquiescing. Being respectful in the face of oppression is not breeding, it is groveling. I will prefer Pangilinan's insolence anytime to that kind of breeding. That insolence shows real breeding, the kind that has to do with discernment and courage, not the kind that has to do with manners and etiquette. The first breeds character, the second breeds only socialites. Breeding in the end is not about learning how to handle the right spoon and the right fork at the right time, it is about learning how to do the right thing at the right time. Breeding isn't shown by social graces in cocktail parties, it is shown by grace under fire.

Still, thank God for Theresa Pangilinan.

The dilemma of curiosity and its use

WORLD VIEW

Helga Nowotny

ALBERT EINSTEIN ONCE SAID, "I HAVE NO special gift, but I am passionately curious." Certainly, Einstein was being tremendously modest. But, just as certainly, curiosity is a powerful driving force in scientific discovery. Indeed, along with talent and interest, as well as mathematical or other quantitative abilities, curiosity is a necessary characteristic of any successful scientist.

Curiosity betrays emotional passion. It is a state of being involuntarily gripped by something that is difficult to ward off and for which—since one cannot act otherwise—one is accountable only in a limited sense. We all come into the world curious, equipped with the psychological drive to explore the world and to expand the terrain that we master. It is no coincidence that a well-known book on developmental psychology bears the title, "The Scientist in the Crib," a work that traces the parallels between small children's behavior and the processes and research strategies that are usual in science.

But the urge for knowledge that drives inborn curiosity to transcend given horizons does not remain uncurbed. Parents can tell many a tale about how, with the beginning of school, their children's playful approach suddenly changes, as they must now focus on objects dictated by the curriculum. Likewise, however desirable its ability to produce the unexpected and unforeseeable, science today cannot claim that it is not accountable to society.

Curiosity is insatiable and, in research, it is inextricably tied to the unforeseeability of results. Research is an endless process, with a destination that no one can predict precisely. The more that unexpected results, brought forth by research in the laboratory, are a precondition for further innovations, the more pressure there is to bring the production of knowledge under control, to direct research in specific directions, and to tame scientific curiosity. But curiosity must not be limited too severely, lest science's ability to produce new knowledge be lost.

This dilemma is at the center of many policy debates surrounding scientific research. To be sure, not everything that arouses scientific curiosity is controversial; in fact, most scientific research is not. Still, the dilemma is obvious in pioneering fields like biomedicine, nanotechnology, and neurosciences. Research in these areas sometimes meets with vehement rejection on religious grounds as in the case of stem-cell research; or owing to fear of, for example, the possibility of altering human identity.

Curiosity implies a certain immoderation, a certain necessary excess. That is precisely what makes it a passion: it is amoral and follows its own laws, which is why society insists on taming it in various ways. Private investment in research directs curiosity on to paths where new scientific breakthroughs promise high economic potential. Politicians expect research to function as a motor of economic growth. Ethics commissions want to establish limits on research, even if these require frequent re-negotiation. The demand for more democratic input, finally, also seeks to influence research priorities.

These considerations must be borne in all efforts to support basic research. In Europe, the establishment of the European Research Council (ERC) is entering a decisive phase, with crucial implications concerning the role we are prepared to concede to scientific curiosity. For the first time, support for basic research is being made possible on the EU level. Individual teams are to enter a pan-European competition to determine the best of the best, opening a free space for scientific curiosity and enabling the unforeseeable outcomes that are characteristic of cutting-edge research.

The dilemma—and it is a decisive one—is that today we cherish the passionate curiosity of an Albert Einstein. But we still want to control the unforeseeable consequences to which curiosity leads. The dilemma must be overcome by allowing curiosity to be protected and supported, while trying to capture those of its fruits that will benefit society. How we accomplish this must be continuously negotiated in the public sphere. Irreducible contradictions will remain, and therein lies the ambivalence that characterizes modern societies' stance toward science.

Project Syndicate

Helga Nowotny is author of "Unersättliche Neugier. Innovation in einer fragilen Zukunft" (Insatiable Curiosity. Innovation in an Uncertain Future) and vice chair of the ERC Scientific Council.

Forks

YOUNG BLOOD

Michelle D. Regulacio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I OFTEN WONDER WHAT MY LIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN like had I chosen a different path. Would I have been happier? Would my life be much simpler? What would have happened if I had taken the other branch of the fork in "my road of life"?

For instance, had I pursued my childhood dream of becoming a doctor, I'd probably be a pediatrician now, or a surgeon, or a dermatologist. But I can only guess. And that's life: whenever you hit a fork in the road, you can only take one path. And once you've taken your chosen path, you will never know what would have happened if you took the other.

The roads of our life are intricately constructed. They consist of a series of forks and crossroads, and these make our lives more exciting. The major forks in my road were those that I reached after college.

My college graduation was definitely one of the most memorable events in my life, and it merited a big celebration. After all, I was able to make my parents proud with the pieces of copper metal I brought home. But surprisingly, after the celebration died down, I felt empty. I feared that my college diploma and the honors I had received were not enough to prepare me for the world that I was about to face, the real world.

I had just turned 19 then, and I felt lost, confused and even scared. First, I had to make a choice between exploring the field of medicine or staying put in the more familiar world of chemistry. I chose the latter because it was the world I lived in during my college days. If I managed to survive those four years, I told myself, then I could go on living there for the rest of my life. Simply put, I chose what I thought to be the safer path.

Taking the path immediately led me to another fork. Should I look for a job in industry or in the academe? I decided to take my time before making that crucial decision.

My laziness took over, however. The precious time that I was supposed to spend on evaluating what I wanted to do with my life was spent mostly on sleeping.

I was stuck at this fork for about a year. In that one year, I slept as long as I could until my eyes hurt or my back ached from too much lying in bed, or until I got hungry. When I wasn't sleeping, I was watching TV. Sometimes, I would just watch the people around me. Everyone was moving. Everyone was doing something. Everyone was living his life the way it was meant to be lived. Everybody, except for me. I was standing still.

Then one day, my father told me something I will never forget. "Chey, life doesn't end after college," he said.

My father's words, simple though they may be, magically shook me out of the trance-like state I was in. I was young and healthy, and I had the whole world in front of me. I had to do something with my life.

With this realization came a decision: I would take the path leading to the academe. Again, I had chosen to take the safer path.

So after a year-long hiatus, I went back to the comforting arms of the place that I consider my second home, the University of the Philippine Los Baños. This time, I wasn't one of those who were copying notes on the blackboard; I was the one writing on it. I quickly discovered that I had a passion for teaching. I liked what I was doing, and I was glad I had chosen the right path.

But after three years, I just got tired of the place, even if it was providing me security. I yearned for a new environment. One day, I woke up facing another fork in my road. Should I continue living in the comfort of my homeland or should I cross oceans and explore the world, literally and figuratively?

At that time, I was 23—and still feeling lost and confused. But I wasn't scared anymore. I had become a bit more bold and daring—bold enough to choose a riskier path. I decided to step out of my comfort zone and jump into the unknown, regardless of the perils awaiting me.

It was the biggest risk I've taken so far. It meant leaving everyone whom I love and care for. It meant having to do everything by myself. But I had to do it.

It has been almost four years since I started treading the path I had bravely chosen. Though I'm happy with my choice, I wouldn't say that my journey has been smooth. In fact, I've encountered a lot of thorns and bumps in the road, which sometimes made me want to run back to the security of my previous existence. The inner strength, which I didn't know I had, coupled with my faith in God prevented me from abandoning this branch of the fork.

Although I pretend to ignore it to avoid the stress, I'm aware that a few more steps from where I am now, I'll be hitting another fork. One side will lead me back to my homeland and the other will keep me on the path I am traversing.

Honestly, it's difficult to tell which path is safer. The first will take me back where I can be with my loving family again. But the second assures me a fruitful professional career.

When you are 9, or even 23, it's OK to be scared and confused. But someone who's about to turn 27 needs to be more courageous and decisive. I hope that when I reach the next fork, I can confidently say: "Hello, fork. I'm 27. I am in control of my life, and I certainly know where I want to go." Then I hope I will be able to walk in the direction of my chosen path, without looking back.

Michelle D. Regulacio, 26, is studying for her Ph.D. in chemistry at Georgetown University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

Feedback on 'Everest'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HERE ARE SOME REACTIONS ON LAST WEEK'S column, "Surfing Everest," which was partly about the efforts to conquer the killer peak by a team and an individual supported respectively by TV network giants ABS-CBN and GMA-7. (The rest was about one adventurer's Himalayan spiritual adventure.) I had expressed my concern about the "race," what with two competing networks doing a continuing coverage of their respective climbers. And I dread seeing one making it and the other not making it. Or worse …

From Maloli K. Espinosa, vice president of ABS-CBN's Government, Corporate Affairs and Public Relations: "We are writing in response to your column 'Surfing Everest' published (April 27). Please be informed that ABS-CBN's commitment to support the first Philippine Mt. Everest expedition was arranged nearly two years ago with The Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines, headed by Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez. The network has pledged, among others, a media campaign drive that will promote this quest.

"The decision was made based on two considerations: that it was a legitimate news story and, second, it was in line with the network's commitment to the coverage of momentous sporting events involving Filipino athletes.

"There was never any consideration of competing or racing with anybody. We had no knowledge of and hold nothing against the competitor's sponsorship of a similar expedition. This move is not about ratings but about ABS-CBN's initiative to let millions of Filipino viewers here and abroad witness a once-in-a-lifetime adventure of their *kababayans*.

"ABS-CBN supports the Filipino's endeavor and success, including the competitor's efforts. And in the spirit of giving moral support to all Filipino athletes, we wish Mr. Romi Garduce (supported by GMA-7) well and we wish him luck, as we do all other climbers making the attempt.

"ABS-CBN has already been at the forefront of historical milestones; being part of the Everest expedition once again illustrates the network's service to the Filipino people as it champions the cause of Philippine sports and highlights the achievements of our athletes as comparable to the best in the world.

"Thank you and may we continue supporting the Filipino team in conquering the highest peak in the world."

From Luz de Leon of California:

"I read your column on the ABS-CBN/GMA race to Mt. Everest, and just a few days before I watched a somber documentary, 'Everest, Killer Mountain' on PBS which was about the 1996 tragedy that killed six to eight skilled climbers and Sherpa guides. They were caught in a storm and an avalanche on their way down.

"Anyone remotely connected to this project should see the film first. They do not know what they are getting into. No amount of TV ratings can compensate for the loss of lives and sufferings of survivors who end up without limbs, noses and other body parts for which we have no spares. My 2 cents."

From Mario Santos:

"Your article is timely, I hope a lot of people were able to read it. From my readings on the Net, the GMA-7 representative was scheduled to conquer Everest this year. The ABS-CBN 2 team is supposed to go in 2007.

"When ABS learned that GMA was betting on the winning horse, they rushed their own team's schedule by one year. This is stupidity, and could be deadly.

"Another prime example of what ABS-CBN is: a creature so enamored of ratings that human life is cheap. The (game show) 'Wowowee' tragedy is another example—the victims had just been laid to rest when they resumed this show, allegedly to 'help the people,' but which reminds me of Willie dancing on the victims' graves every time he does that show.

"I think the Department of Justice should push for the resolution of the 'Wowowee' case…as soon as possible.

"Because when something happens to the ABS-CBN Everest Team—and the one-year short cut is one big red flag which could mean something might happen—ABS-CBN would again be embroiled in another case. But then nothing gets resolved in this country…"

(Strong language deleted.—CPD)

Last year, the Pakistani Air Force did a dramatic rescue of Slovenian climber Tomas Humar who was trapped for six days on one of the highest peaks of the Himalayas. Humar was stalled by bad weather at about 20,000 feet on a narrow ledge on the Rupal face of Nanga Parbat, the world's ninth highest peak. This renowned climber (1,500 ascents) tried to take a route never tried before since the peak was first scaled in 1953. He never made it to the top but at least he made it alive.

The rescue pilots couldn't hope for much as the ledge was impossible to reach. It was the hand of God that did it, a rescuer said. A BBC report said that by the time the rescue effort was in motion, the Slovenian had run out of food, gas in his stove and radio batteries. He kept himself warm by digging snow but became increasingly cold, hungry and in danger of frostbite. At least, he was not disoriented.

The only way to get to him was to throw a rope that he could tie around himself. The aircraft would then fly with the climber dangling from the aircraft.

The weather was so bad three attempts failed. The rescuers could not even drop food. The rope throwing did succeed, but had Humar failed to grab hold of the rope on the first try, the chopper would have gone back to base.

It was indeed the "hand of God" that made possible Humar's "insanely good luck," and the heroic efforts of men and their costly machine. The Pakistani Air Force Lama SA-3158, built to operate at high altitudes, holds the world record for the highest-ever helicopter flight at 12,441 meters.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

What's in it for you

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN THE END, EVERY POLITICAL DECISION begins with, "What's in it for me?" That is why patronage is usually the lifeblood of politics.

So granting someone does not care about right or wrong—and resents discussions of right and wrong as an irritating pastime of the "holier than thou" rabble; and that one does not want to talk about personalities either, because to focus on the personal is to reveal completely the undesirability of a leader in question; and, for the sake of argument, that to take sides—which is inevitable in everything, from sports to board decisions, not to mention politics—is undesirable because of some mythical need for "objectivity"; and, just for the hell of it, that if you yell something often enough, it becomes the truth—assuming all these things, will someone please explain how on earth Charter change, as defined by the administration, can make life better? And for whom?

Tell me how it will increase my salary, lower my taxes, decrease the price of gas and goods, stop inflation, ensure fewer potholes on the roads, improve health care services and provide for cheaper and more efficient telecoms, a more dynamic and responsive bureaucracy, better and more affordable education, better sanitation, and genuine peace and order?

How can giving the current leadership—or any leadership, for that matter, not to mention a leadership hounded by questions of legitimacy—a blank check, politically, improve our lives? Will it repeal the law of supply and demand? (Remember that old political joke?) How can Charter change help?

Tell me, with the same crew at the helm for five years now; with OFWs just beginning to express themselves at the ballot box but, soon enough, to be deprived of that hard-won, partial (at present) right by a system of government that would (assuming you are anti-Estrada) turn the country into a nation composed of San Juan-style bailiwicks, how will Charter change improve anything politically?

I don't see how. Not under the scheme being peddled at present. When the Senate, about a decade ago, was poised to pass an anti-dynasty bill, the House advised the former to forget it because it would never, ever, even be calendared for deliberation in the House. (The bill provided that a congressman or mayor or governor can't be replaced by a wife or a child; a president cannot have any relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity in political office for the duration of his or her term; and members of the same family cannot compete for the same office, except a Senate seat, which is contested on a national scale and thus relatively immune to the lock dynasties have on local politics; or local council seats, which are so plentiful it's also difficult to see them as dynastic preserves.)

Consider, too, that the House also objected to the Senate proposal to legislate that 60 percent of local income from taxes remain with the local governments instead of being sent to the national government, because it would lessen the influence congressmen have over their rivals—the mayors. Had it been enacted into law, the bill would have been a meaningful step toward freeing the provinces from national control. And yet, today, there are those who would not only abolish the Senate, but go on to merge the executive with the legislative branches.

If the alternative that is being proposed is along the lines of replacing Jojo Binay with Lito Lapid, come on! Let's grant that there are those who dislike Binay, but is Lapid any kind of solution? And what does it say about those who view Lapid as a solution? And you trust them with the economy while they place the country's business center under Lapid? What happened to all that talk about opposing the so-called politics of popularity?

I'll tell you what the pro-Charter change arguments boil down to: If you eliminate all checks and balances, if you remove all controls preventing a one-party state and a president-for-life (or prime minister-for-life), if you remove the legal limitations on the exercise of presidential will and whim; in other words, if you absolutely trust not only the President (who, after all, won't live forever), but more importantly, the majority coalition tolerating her leadership for the moment, then you should be for constitutional change. After all, the only assurance you have is not on paper or in the system. The only assurance you can have depends on a single assumption: that given absolute, unlimited, unquestionable power, a coalition, any coalition, can be trusted—and expected—to use its power only for the public good, never for its own, selfish interests, and surely not for the benefit of its political allies. In other words, all you have is faith.

Faith in whom? Don't think in terms of the administration coalition. Think of any coalition. Because democracy is not about a particular group holding power forever. It is also about the probability that one day, today's minority could be tomorrow's majority. Either side can't be given what those in power today wants. Because no one, no group, should have such complete, unquestionable, power. To surrender that power to one individual or group is madness and reflects a lunatic attitude toward governance.

Would you hand anyone, in the administration or the opposition, today's leaders and, perhaps, tomorrow's leaders, too, a blank check?

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

THEY SAID

Merit over seniority

"In promotions to the ranks of lieutenant colonel, colonel and general, we are going to put more emphasis on merit than seniority."

—National Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, proposing an overhaul of the promotion system in the military

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Lack of imagination

I AGREE WITH CONRADO DE Quiros: Our country has never lacked for better alternatives to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If only we would have the eyes to see them. (PDI, 4/27/06)

Yes, we have so many good citizens who show much in the way of honesty and integrity, putting to shame our politicians. These are citizens who have shown their love of country not by running for public office, but through their own acts of courage and generosity.

We have Tony Meloto, founder and executive director of the very successful Gawad Kalinga. There's Benjamin Abadiano, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee for his steadfast commitment to indigenous Filipinos (Mangyans, in particular) and their hopes for peace and better lives.

But then, even a child could be a better leader than Ms Arroyo. We have never lacked for alternatives. What we lack is imagination.

It's not just the politicians who can lead us. Any ordinary citizen can. As long as he's willing, and has the people's trust. Sadly, exemplary citizens don't seem to be willing to run for public office.

—JOSEPH DOMINIC O. ROMERO,
jaodeballs@gmail.com

Curtailing freedom in the name of delicadeza

THE NEWS STORY "DOJ CHIEF wants student heckler probed" (PDI, 4/26/06) was so absurd and unbelievable. I guess it just really showed what kind of society we now have in the Philippines.

It is so sad to see that our freedom of speech is being curtailed by the present administration in the name of "*delicadeza*" when the person heading it herself doesn't know the meaning of the word.

What's worse is that our people are just willing to take it as it is. I thought we had learned our lessons from our experience with the dictatorship, but then again I must have thought wrong.

We are now back to the same predicament, it's just that people don't see this yet. I hope that our people are not too blind to see all the wicked things happening around us.

—ERIC TRAYA,
tericc@yahoo.com

Politics-free CSC a must in parliamentary system

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION is a constitutional body that was established more than a hundred years ago to ensure merit and fitness, efficiency and honesty in the civilian bureaucracy. Currently, the question of merit and fitness on appointments is at issue given the presidential power of discretion. The "best fit principle" needs to apply under any condition and circumstance, based on the qualification standards set by the CSC, but this ought not to be cast on stone.

Under President Marcos, the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) was established to develop a corps of senior managers with the competency and development orientation to manage government agencies.

Under President Aquino, a number of people, recruited from the private sector, were appointed to third-level positions and took the required examinations and training for security of tenure. During her term, she appointed a number of presidential advisers as well.

When President Ramos assumed office in 1992, he appointed a number from the third-level ranks, including among others, myself, Carmen Reodica (health department) and Lina Laigo (social welfare department), to Cabinet positions which ordinarily are given to political appointees.

During President Estrada's term, the Career Executive Service Board, of which I was the chair then, submitted a "blue book" which contained the names of eligible career executive service officers (Cesos) from where the President could draw his appointees. To him, the list didn't matter.

Indeed, rationalizing the relationship between the CSC and the Office of the President is enduring. The question is this, what is the civil service role on presidential appointees? What is the result when it is not followed? And finally what kind of a relationship is there between the chair of the CSC and the President?

I am reminded of the message of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that a CSC must continue to streamline the bureaucracy, fight graft and corruption and pay the civil servants well. This ought to be the 3-point agenda of the CSC and the Office of the President. We need a strong civil service insulated from partisan politics if we want a parliamentary system of government.

Indeed, when you have good people in government, how can you lose? In the same vein, when you do not have good people, how can you ever win?

—CORAZON ALMA G. DE LEON,
secretary general,
Philippine National Red Cross;
former chair,
Civil Service Commission;
former secretary,
Department of Social Welfare
and Development

Meralco explains delay in refund

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE LETTER OF Violeta O. Reyes titled "Now among the poorest of the poor." (PDI, 4/25/06)

Reyes submitted the refund requirements at our Mandaluyong Branch in January 2005. She, however, failed to submit the required BIR Certificate of Registration (COR) and instead submitted the 2004 Income Tax Return of an institution named Bahay Malabon Inc. As the registered customer, Reyes should have submitted her Tax Identification Number (TIN). This submission is supposed to facilitate the matching of our report on taxes withheld with the customer's name in the BIR's TIN database. Because of Reyes' failure to submit her TIN, there was need to further evaluate her refund claim.

Her claim was approved after our Legal Office established that Bahay Malabon Inc. was a restaurant being operated by Reyes at her residence. Had she submitted the COR, which reflects the name of the establishment and its owner, the additional evaluation would not have been necessary and the delay in the processing would have been avoided.

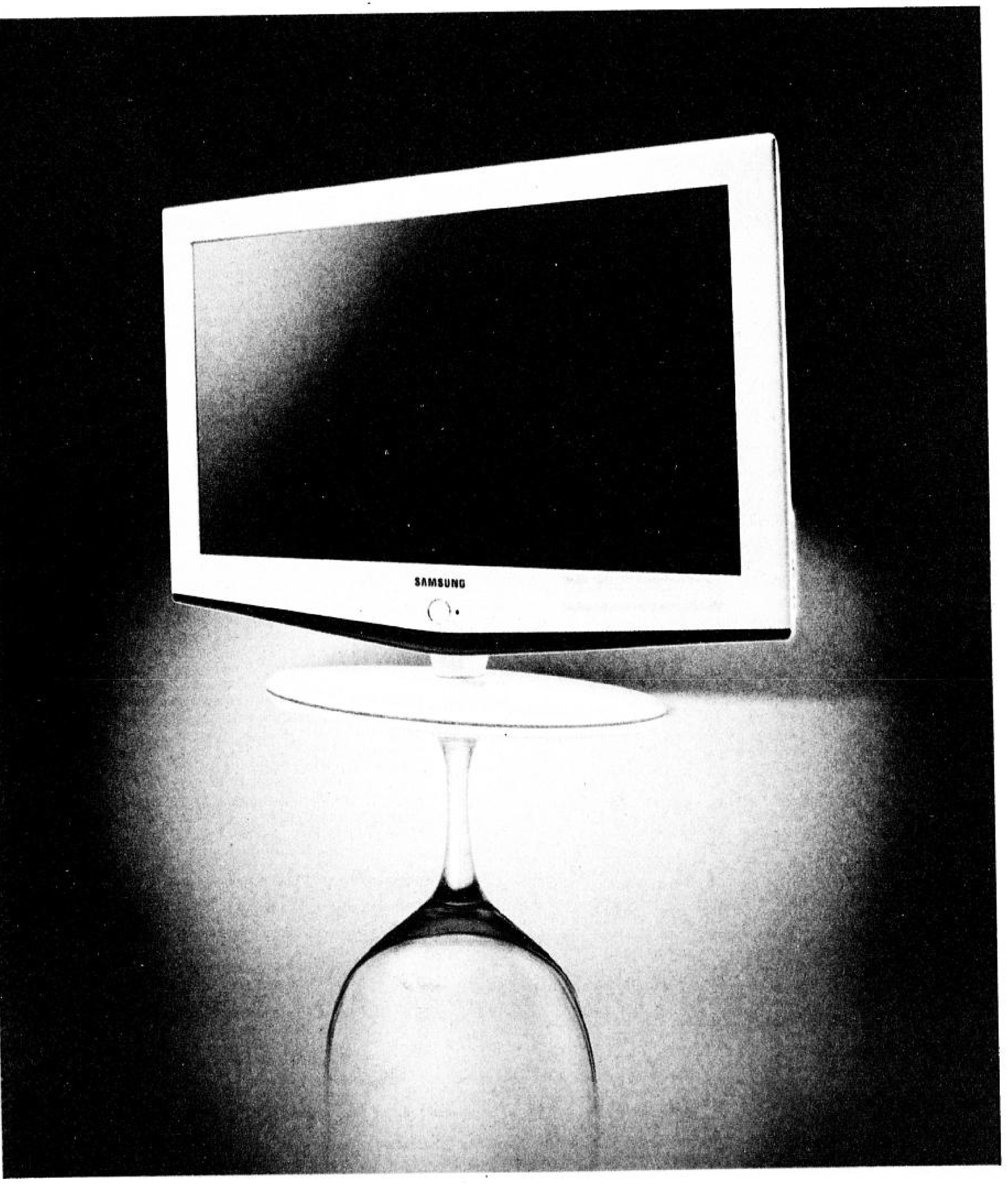
Since Reyes chose the Fixed Credit to Bill scheme, her first credit, retroactive July 2005, will be reflected in her next bill scheduled at the end of April 2006.

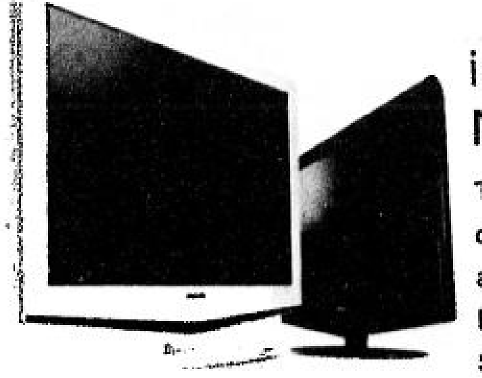
To explain the logic behind the requirements, Revenue Memorandum Order No. 22-2005 issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue states that "The Certificate of Registration (COR) shall be submitted to Meralco by all commercial and industrial customers prior to the release of the refund or application to bill in order for Meralco to get the Tax Identification Number (TIN)." The identification cards are necessary to ascertain that the claimant is the right person entitled to the refund. This is to protect both the customer and our company from possible fraudulent claims.

—ELPI O. CUNA JR.,
vice president and head,
Corporate Communication,
Meralco, Pasig City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.





imagine a masterpiece that reflects your fine style.
Now you can easily own it.

Thanks to Samsung, one of the world's biggest LCD TV innovators, you can now easily own a cutting-edge High Definition LCD TV. Backed by years of R&D and engineered with the most advanced technology, the new R7 delivers vivid, true-to-life images you'd expect from Samsung. Impeccably crafted with elegant simplicity, this masterpiece is now within your reach. With the Samsung R7 LCD TV, it's not that hard to imagine. To learn more, visit www.samsung.com/ph.

WORLD'S NO. 1 TV BRAND

EUROPE'S NO. 1 LCD TV BRAND

MOST AWARDED BRAND IN IF DESIGN 2006

SAMSUNG

Samsung Customer Contact Center: TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.
Now available in black. Availability of white colored units to be announced.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Metro Manila
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City
Telefax: 962-82-09 / Tel. 962-98-84

May 02 2006

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD NCR to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items

A. DRUGS MEDICINES-BS STOCKS
B. DRUGS MEDICINES-Pay
C. MEDICAL SUPPLIES
D. LABORATORY SUPPLIES
E. JANITORIAL SUPPLIES
F. CARPENTRY SUPPLIES
G. PLUMBING SUPPLIES
H. ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
I. OFFICE EQUIPMENTS
J. LINEN & OTHER SUPPLIES

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents	May 22, 2006 (8:00 am – 4:00 pm)
Pre-Bid Conference	Item A-J May 24, 2006, (1:00 p.m.)
Checking of Eligibility Requirements	Items A & B May 24-30, 2006 (8 AM – 4 PM). Items C & D May 21 – June 6, 2006 (8 AM – 4 PM) Items E to J May 24 – June 13, 2006 (8 AM – 4 PM)

Submission and Opening of Bids

ITEMS		
	A	June 01, 2006 (9:00 AM)
	B	June 01, 2006 (1:00 PM)
	C	June 08, 2006 (9:00 AM)
	D	June 08, 2006 (1:00 AM)
	E, F & G	June 15, 2006 (9:00 AM)
	H, I & J	June 15, 2006 (1:00 PM)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal form from the BAC Secretariat, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (500.00)

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City unless announced otherwise

Each bid must be accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check or GSIS bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid. The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid documents

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretariat or call Telephone No. 962-9804 or 962-9880

Dr. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO SA. JAVILLONAR, MD, MHA
Chief of Sanitarium III

(PDI – May 4 & 13, 2006)

EX-PRESIDENT Estrada is in a pensive mood at his Greenhills residence he hasn't set foot on in five years. RAFFY LERMA

Erap comes …

From page A1

years since he had been in his own house," Estrada's media liaison, Ferdie Ramos, told the INQUIRER.

"Happy birthday, Ma, *si Joseph·ito* (this is Joseph)," Estrada whispered to his fragile-looking mother, Doña Mary Ejercito.

She nodded in response, in an apparent recognition of her son. "*Nakakaiyak naman* (It could make one cry)," one female supporter said as she wiped the tears from her eyes.

Doña Mary lives in a nearby street. On her arrival at Polk, she was taken inside the house in a wheelchair.

Before Doña Mary was wheeled in and while she was still in front of the house, the former President greeted her mother happy birthday, kissed her several times on the forehead and wished her good health and a longer life, to the applause of die-hard Estrada supporters.

The Estradas then went inside where they sang for Doña Mary the happy birthday song.

13-hour liberty

The 69-year-old Estrada early this week was allowed by the Sandiganbayan to attend the birthday of Doña Mary.

Under the court order, Estrada was to stay for 13 hours at his Polk residence after which he was to be returned to his detention at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is held on plunder and perjury charges.

Estrada's lawyers are seeking an extension of his furlough, the latest of several granted the deposed leader by the court since his arrest in April 2001.

Staff in tears

Estrada arrived shortly before 10:30 a.m. escorted by Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, PNP security director, and Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta.

His household staff, some of whom were crying, met Estrada and he warmly greeted them.

Ramos said Estrada brought with him assorted vegetables for his mother, which the former President himself harvested from his vegetable patch in his rest house.

Trial reset for tomorrow

Doña Mary arrived at about noon in a black Mercedes Benz limousine driven by Jude Ejercito, her grandson.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice and Special Division Chair Teresita Leonardo de Castro and Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta agreed to allow Estrada to attend his mother's birthday after Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and the Philippine National Police posed no objections.

The antigraft court reset the hearing of Estrada's cases, originally scheduled for yesterday, to tomorrow.

Estrada's previous requests to be allowed to visit his home had been opposed by Villa-Ignacio.

Velarde hits Cha-cha …

From page A1

agree to unspecified transitory provisions in the interim period.

In remarks to the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines, Velarde said he understood that the terms of all incumbent officials would be extended and they would form the interim parliament without the benefit of an election under the transitory provisions being discussed in Congress.

"This, to my simple reading, is a kind of power grab all over again, robbing the people of their right and power to choose their national leaders," said Velarde, the politically influential leader of the Catholic charismatic group.

The 66-year-old Velarde said he was trying to bring together Ms Arroyo, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and other congressional leaders to a meeting to resolve differences over the mode of amending the Constitution.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, however, said that Velarde's opposition to the initiative was too late. He said that the campaign had gathered the required number of signatures—8.5 million of the registered voters—to push ahead.

"It appears that the group got the 3 percent per district and 12 percent nationwide," said Ermita. He also pointed out that Velarde was not against Charter change but the mode of carrying it out.

Cha-cha cannot be avoided

Added National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales: "Efforts to amend the Constitution, either through a people's initiative or some other means will continue … The time for change has come and this can't be avoided."

Velarde announced in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER last week his opposition to the signature campaign. He said El Shaddai would hold a prayer rally for the enlightenment of those behind the people's initiative.

He also said he had instructed his members, estimated to be five to seven million strong, not to sign the petitions being distributed by the pro-Arroyo group Sigaw ng Bayan.

Velarde pointed out that the Supreme Court had ruled in 1997 that a people's initiative was illegal without an enabling law. He said that a constitutional convention would take a long time to realize desired Charter changes.

"How can we expect the people to respect and obey the laws of the land when its high officials do the opposite?" said Velarde.

Most feasible

"The most feasible process now is a constituent assembly," Velarde said, "under certain parameters if the Senate and the House leadership can come together and that is what I'm planning to do—bring them together with the President and set parameters on a constituent assembly so this Cha-cha is done the proper way."

The constituent assembly will consist of the present Senate and House, which will both convene to propose constitutional amendments.

Velarde said he believed the Senate, majority of whose members were opposed to the constituent assembly, were "reasonable people" who might consider this mode of changing the Constitution.

"It is for this reason that I have consented to be interviewed by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on these issues, as a 'voice in the desert' to sound the alarm on the lawlessness that will come if this illegal people's initiative and its agenda is not unmasked," Velarde said.

He said the proposed transitory provisions did not set a date for the election of the members of the regular parliament and its establishment. He said that upon the establishment of the interim parliament, it would propose amendments to the Constitution.

VELARDE: Cha-cha "a kind of power grab all over again." ERIK ARAZAS

NUNS attend Mass and conference against Cha-cha at the Asian Social Institute in Manila Wednesday. ERIK ARAZAS

Without direction, instability seen

"It means that what this people's initiative intends to do is only to immediately install a parliamentary form without its legs and arms and with no definite or clear directions on how it will operate and how it will run the government. Thus, political instability will follow," he said.

Velarde also called attention to a proposal that Ms Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro continue to exercise their powers under the 1987 Constitution unless impeached by a vote of two-thirds of all members of the interim parliament.

"We do not know how and where this Interim Parliament, with nobody to check it, will bring our country once it is installed," he said.

Velarde said he had informed Ms Arroyo about his opposition to the people's initiative.

"She said she will look into these provisions and study them further," he said.

Velarde said De Venecia also asked him to endorse the people's initiative and that he "bluntly told" the Speaker he would not support an initiative that did not come from the people but from government officials and being forced without the benefit of thorough deliberations.

Still a GMA supporter

Velarde said he remained supportive of Ms Arroyo and her completing her term up to 2010.

Opposition politicians seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster since last year over vote-rigging and corruption allegations have accused her of trying to change the Constitution to cement her grip on power and divert public attention from recent scandals.

Ms Arroyo has said the Philippines needs to reform its flawed political system to hasten the country's economic growth.

The proposed Charter amendments would do away with the Senate, eliminating a crucial institution that checks wrongdoing and excesses of the executive branch, said Velarde.

Former Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza, testifying before the Senate committee on constitutional amendments yesterday, urged the Senate to agree to a constituent assembly or forfeit its right to be heard on a crucial issue.

Salvador Carlota, a former justice and law dean of the University of the Philippines, issued the same plea as Mendoza.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION
2-MONTH PROGRAM
* Calling All Doctors and Allied Health Course Grads/Undergrads!
Due to insistent public demand
HYPERTRACK
is BACK!
MT Hypertrack is a 2-month comprehensive medical transcription training program specially designed for medical and qualified allied health course students or graduates.
MTC ACADEMY
Philippines' 1st and Largest TESDA Registered MT Training School.
TESDA REGISTERED
MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION TRAINING SPECIALISTS
TESTIMONIALS
"The MT Hypertrack program helped me a lot... Because of this program I'm now a full time Medical Transcriptionist and part time Medical Transcription Instructor." - Lester Madriaga-Tan, MD
"I was accepted here in Bahrain as a dental hygienist. And guess what, when they saw my certificate in MT Hypertrack they got impressed with my resume. Now I'm also a part time Medical Transcription Supervisor in the same hospital." - Cynthia Aligaen, DMD
REGULAR MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION COURSES OFFERED:
- For High School Graduates
- For Non-Medical Course Background
- For Allied Health Course Background
- For Medical Course Graduates
FOR THE NEAREST MTCA BRANCH IN YOUR AREA CALL / EMAIL:
899-MTCA(6822) • admin@mtcacademy.com
InnovaQuest, an MTC Academy Business Partner, is in immediate need of:
250 Medical Transcriptionists / QA Officers
Send resume to : hrd@innovaquest.com

MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIVERSITY
MLQU
The Manuel L. Quezon University School of Law
congratulates its graduates for passing the 2005 Bar Examination
TUALLA, Nyerson Dexter Tito Q.
4th Placer, 2005 Bar Examination
AMBITO, Julyn S.
AMBROS, Rohbert A.
APATAN, John A.
APDUHAN, Myra B.
ARINGAY, Edgar Feliciano D.
BAUTISTA, Mario F.
BAÑARES, JR., Joseph Jerry B.
BELEN, JR., Sesinio N.
BILLOTE, Bobby L.
COLLADO, Ronald F.
CONDE, Ronilo D.
CUDAL, Lloyd Allain A.
CUNANAN, Fernando C.
DE VEYRA, Rugy R.
DICHOSA, Hermes A.
DULDULAO, Resurreccion R.
FLORES, Mercedita I.
GARANGAN, Alexandro N.
GARCIA, Michael L.
GAREN, Dominic A.
GONZALES, Ruby R.
JAMIAS-GARCIA, Jamie-lyn D.
LEAÑO, II, Nepomuceno A.
LORENZO, Ramon B.
MACAPUGAS, Clemente B.
MANINGAS, Ma. Julpha P.
MAPALA, David A.
MASUKAT, Yasmin Soraya A.
MERCADO, Melisa I.
MOSQUITO, Alemar I.
PANGILINAN, Emilio C.
QUIÑONES, Jaybe D.
ROXAS, Ronila C.
SELDA, Enrique C.
SOLANGON, JR., Eduardo C.
VILLARUEL, III, Hardee B.
A Testimonial Dinner will be tendered by the MLQU Administration and Faculty of the School of Law, in honor of the successful examinees on May 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m., Manila Peninsula Hotel, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

People's Choice
SUPERBRAND HALL OF FAME
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2005
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
SUPER MARKER
SC-F
Made of tough resilient plastic or metal containers with strong and long-lasting tips that provide smooth steady strokes on virtually any surface
Available in:
black, red, blue brown, violet, green, orange, yellow.
Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax:242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo Japan

EZ2 25 7

SUERTRES 1 9 4

(All in exact order)

FOUR DIGIT 1 0 1 9

MEGALOTTO 6/45 1 13 28 29 35 39

₱9,599,567.40

Protests fail to stop Korean shipyard

SUBIC, ZAMBALES—A SOUTH KOREAN SHIPPING company on Tuesday proceeded with the groundbreaking ceremony for the country's biggest shipyard facility here amid protests from village residents who refused to leave the project site.

Officials of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd. and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) led the ceremony, which signaled the start of the shipyard's construction.

Nam Ho Cho, Hanjin chair, said the construction of the facility showed the strong business ties between South Korea and the Philippines. The project is expected to provide at least 20,000 jobs for Filipino skilled workers.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said he was optimistic that the project would continue despite difficulties in clearing the area after villagers opted to stay and stop the demolition of their houses.

"We made it sure that the community in the project site would not be hostile to the Korean company," Magsaysay said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was scheduled to attend the ceremony, but she reportedly cancelled the engagement after learning that the construction site had not been cleared.

"It might have come to the President's knowledge that the clearing operation had not been fully implemented in the area," Magsaysay said, referring to Ms Arroyo's absence.

But the governor assured officials of the South Korean firm that Ms Arroyo was supporting the project.

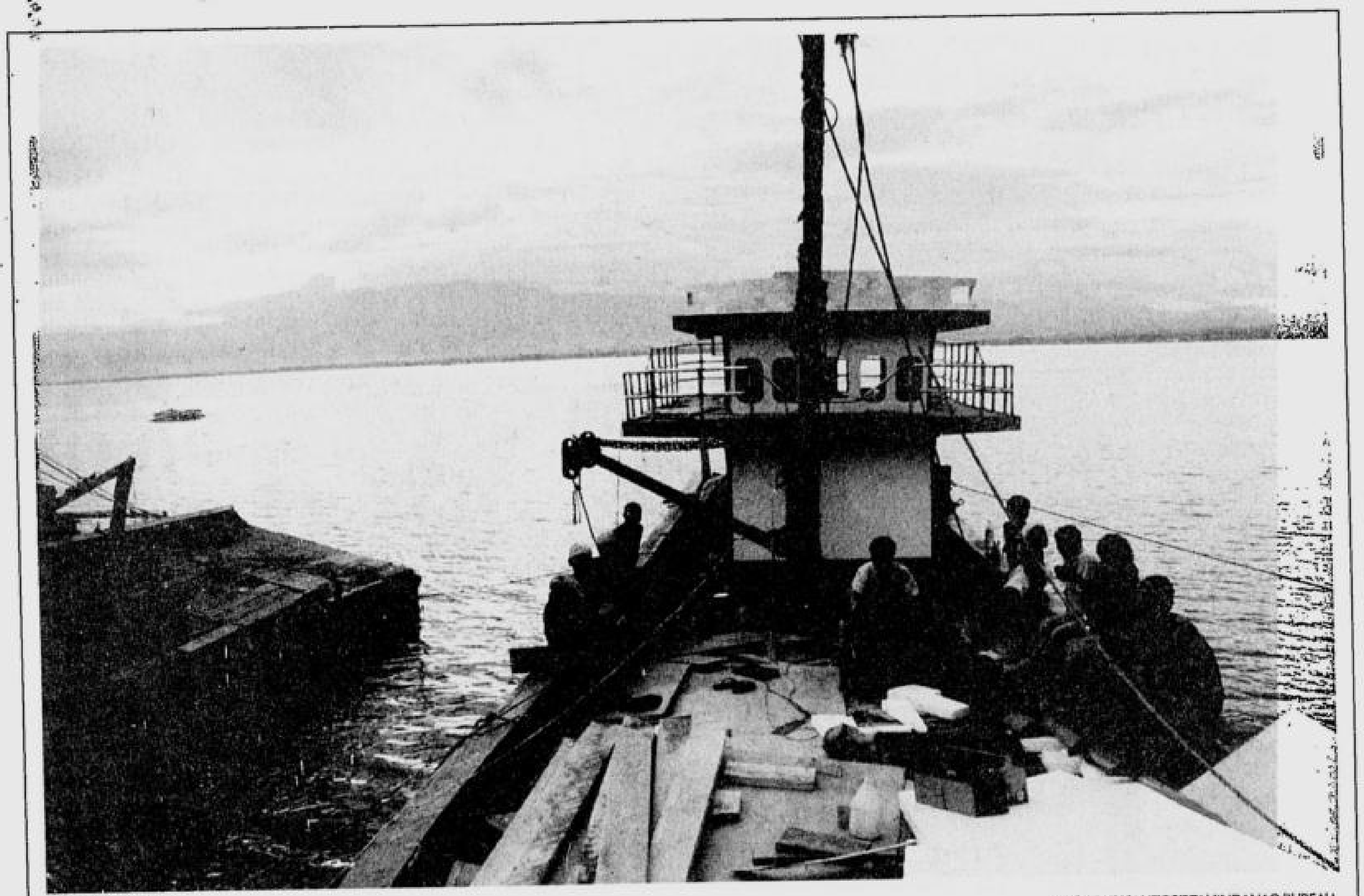
Residents in Sitio Agusuhin have continued to defy the clearing operations, claiming that Hanjin failed to give them just compensation and a proper relocation site.

At least 300 families will be displaced by the project.

Two persons, including a 5-year-old girl, were hurt on Saturday after they refused to leave their house while it was being demolished.

Lawyer Ramon Agregado, SBMA senior deputy administrator for support services, said the affected settlers here would be compensated and given jobs during the project's construction.

Agregado urged settlers to leave their houses and transfer to a temporary evacuation site in the town. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SEA REST
Fishermen call it a day and rest in their fishing boat docked in Punta Dumalag in Davao City. The fishermen were repairing their boat to set sail for deeper waters.

Talks with MILF resume in Malaysia

By Jeoffrey Maitem
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—GOVERNMENT and Moro Islamic Liberation Front negotiators resumed talks in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, a top rebel leader said yesterday.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, told the INQUIRER that the new round of exploratory talks would center anew on defining the scope of the ancestral domain claim of the MILF.

Under the Tripoli Agreement of 2001, the government agrees in principle to define the ancestral domain of the Moro people to determine which areas are included in a future political settlement with the rebel group.

In March, negotiators from both sides tried but failed to resolve the issue, which is seen as the biggest stumbling block to a final peace settlement that would lead to an end to the MILF struggle for secession.

"We are optimistic that the meeting will have a good result," Jaafar said.

Earlier, government chief negotiator Silvestre Afable said a peace agreement might be reached with the MILF by September.

Jaafar said the issue on Charter change was not part of the agenda when the negotiating panels met in the Malaysian capital.

It was Jesus Dureza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's peace adviser, who claimed that the Charter change move and its impact on peace negotiations would be discussed with the various rebel groups.

Citing the implications of a parliament governing federated states, Dureza said all rebel groups would be briefed about potential changes in the bureaucracy when the Constitution is overhauled.

On the issue of ancestral domain, Dureza said there was an effort from the government to strike an agreement with the MILF. "We are working on it," he said.

A ceasefire agreement between the government and the MILF is holding despite periodic clashes between government soldiers and separatist guerrillas.

An international team is monitoring the two sides' compliance with the agreement.

Int'l groups probe abuses in 3 RP areas

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—AN INTERNATIONAL Labor Solidarity mission (ILS) is in Negros Occidental to document cases of human rights violations committed in the province, including the killing and abduction of farm workers and their leaders.

The 30-member multinational ILS mission in the Philippines has split into four groups with one going to Negros Occidental, and the three others to Davao, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog, Negros team member Sid de Guzman of Canada said.

Kris Geuns of Belgium, who is also part of the Negros team, said they decided to come to the Philippines because the number of killings in the country "is very high, it is second only to Colombia."

"Although there is no proof and direct link between the killings and the policy of the (Philippine) government ... [the] government creates a climate that makes it possible for these killings to happen," Geuns said.

The latest killings in Negros Occidental involved Rico Adeva, 39, a leader-organizer of the peasant group Task Force Mapalad (TFM), who was shot dead in Talisay City on April 15; and Porferio Maglasang, chair of the Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM) chapter in Kabankalan City, who was killed outside his home in Barangay Camansi exactly a week later, on April 22.

Peasant leader Eric Cabanit was killed in Davao City. The murder drew the attention of international human rights organizations.

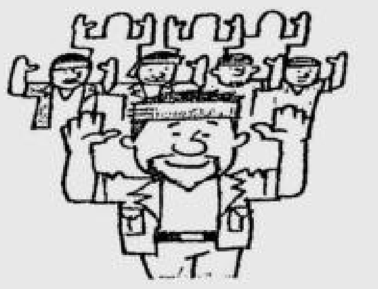
Geuns said that while ILS members had no legal power to investigate, they had the moral right to determine the causes of human rights violations.

"We are documenting what has happened to bring attention to it locally and internationally by generating public opinion to get some results," he said.

CABANIT

ROUNDUP

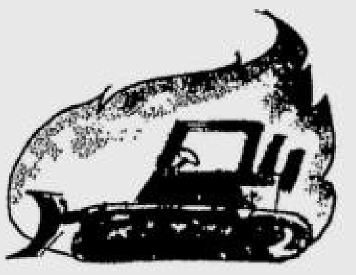
50 Moro rebels yield



COTABATO CITY—At least 50 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels surrendered to the military in Wao, Lanao del Sur on Saturday. Marine Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, deputy commander of the military's Southern Command, said the rebels, led by Commander Baud Sarip, alias Falcon, of the 206th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, also yielded at least 47 high powered firearms. "The rebels personally surrendered to Lt. Col. Benjamin Madrigal, commander of 26th Infantry Battalion in Wao town," he said. It was not clear why the alleged rebels surrendered. But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Falcon was not an MILF regular but was only allied with some MILF leaders in the area. "He is a former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) commander and was never an MILF," Kabalu said.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA rebels burn equipment



BUTUAN CITY—New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned heavy equipment belonging to Chinese-owned China Waters International and Electric Corp. (China Waters) in Barangay Tagabaca here on Thursday night. "I presumed the firm did not pay revolutionary taxes because we had been encouraging them not to do so," city police director Sr. Supt. Ramon Espiritu told the INQUIRER. He said about 20 rebels swooped down on the company's equipment repository in the village and poured gallons of diesel and gasoline on two bulldozers at around 10:30 p.m. The firm is constructing the flood control projects for the city's riverside villages under the Cotabato-Agusan River Basin Development Plan. In Banaybanay, Davao Oriental, rebels also burned several equipment at the mining site of Heritage Resources Development Corp. in Barangay Maputi on Tuesday. Maj. Jose Cuerpo, Army spokesperson for Southern Mindanao, said the rebels "failed to get a certain amount [from the company]."

Franklin Caliguid and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Albay hosts Lion confab

LEGAZPI CITY—Some 4,000 delegates from various Lions Clubs all over the country are expected to converge here for their Multi-District State Convention on May 18-21, in time for the Daragang Magayon Festival in Albay. Lions Club host chapter secretary Angel Nieva said Gov. Fernando Gonzales, through an Executive Order requested by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, has declared May 18-24 as Lions Week in Albay to give due recognition and hospitality to the civic club's national convention here.

Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 killed in blast in Cadiz

BACOLOD CITY—Two persons were killed in a grenade explosion Saturday in Barangay Celestino Villacin, Cadiz City. Police said the fatalities, Richard Gallego and his friend, Arnel Decosta, were on their way home from a benefit dance when the explosion took place. Police have yet to determine where the grenade came from, but reports said it was allegedly owned by Gallego, who was drunk when the accident took place. The victims, whose bodies were almost beyond recognition, were buried on Sunday by their respective families.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Iron fortified rice in GenSan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bureau of Food and Drugs approved on the second week of April the license to operate of CLG Health Food Products, a manufacturer of iron fortificant. Jay Mariano, marketing manager of CLG Food Products, told the INQUIRER that the company's P10-million processing plant here had been operating since January, but did not go into commercial production of iron-fortified rice pending the BFAD's approval of its LTO application. Mariano added the approval would help address iron deficiency anemia (IDA), particularly among children coming from poor families. He said 66 percent of children born in 2003 nationwide suffered from IDA. He said this was alarming because iron, vitamin A and iodine deficiencies, which are common among children coming from poor families, would result in the children's low IQ. By fortifying rice with iron, the staple food would not only be delicious but also nutritious.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Jueteng' return to Isabela gets protection from gov't exec

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THE ILlegal numbers game "jueteng" has returned to some Isabela towns after a two-year absence, local officials said.

Gamu Mayor Fernando Cumigad said a local government official was behind the resumption of jueteng operations in the province. He declined to name the official.

He said "dry-run" operations started on April 28 and went full blast on April 30. Alicia Mayor Napoleon Dy, president of the Isabela Mayors' League, said emissaries of one Jun Marasigan had been getting the mayors' approval for the resumption of jueteng in the province.

But Dy said many mayors had rejected the offers.

"[But] for mayors who allow [jueteng operations in their areas], that is their own decision and discretion. I cannot do anything about that," he said.

Senior Supt. Oscar Fiesta, acting provincial police director, said he would order police chiefs in Isabela to arrest jueteng bet collectors and their financiers.

Cumigad and Mayors Joseph Panganiban of Angadanan town and Benedict Calderon of Roxas town said they had not received reports of jueteng operations in their respective towns.

Vice Gov. Ramon Reyes and Board Member Jesus Cruz Jr. earlier confirmed reports on the resumption of jueteng operations.

Cruz said draws were held in a village in Ilagan town on the first day of dry run operations. He said residents in the town informed him that the combination 5-23 won in the morning draw.

Police tightened the noose around jueteng operations following allegations in the Senate that members of the family of President Macapagal-Arroyo were receiving payoffs from illegal gambling.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the First Couple's son, Rep. Mikee Arroyo have denied accusations that they were receiving payoffs from jueteng.

The Senate committee investigating the allegations, however, has not finished a report on its hearings on jueteng and failed to call Batangas Gov. Armand Sanchez, who was identified by a witness in the hearings as one of the country's biggest gambling lords, an allegation that the governor denied. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Elder's search for Japanese roots leads to better lives

DOMINGO Sasaki San Lorenzo (male, with glasses) poses with his aunt and relatives the first time he met them in 1974.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Minalabac, Camarines Sur

TAKEZO Sasaki, the patriarch of the Sasaki clan in Minalabac and Milaor, refused to fight with Japanese Imperial Army against the attacking Filipino guerrillas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOMINGO SASAKI SAN Lorenzo, 67, an elder of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Milaor, Camarines Sur, shows no bitterness about the adversities he had encountered in the past.

The youngest of four children of Marcelina San Lorenzo, Domingo lost his father, Takezo Sasaki, who died in their two-story house in Tabuco, Naga City when American planes bombed the capital on May 1, 1942. Domingo was then only 3 years old.

After the defeat of Japanese soldiers in World War II, Domingo's family experienced poverty for the first time. His mother struggled hard to earn a living so the children could finish high school.

To avoid ridicule and persecution after the war because of his Japanese ancestry, the family members did not use Sasaki as surname.

But by a twist of fate or what he believes to be God's hand leading him along life's uncharted pathways, Domingo found an opportunity to "reclaim" the surname deprived of his family for many years.

That was in 1974, or 32 years after the war, when Domingo was installing a doorbell at the house of a client-friend in Naga as a part-time job.

He was introduced to Nobuo Fukazawa, a Japanese and chief of Bayer operations in the Philippines, who was staying at the house of his friend in Monterey Village, a middle-class subdivision in the city.

Engaged in a banter with the Japanese executive, Domingo shared his longing to reestablish links with his father's relatives in Japan, whose whereabouts his family in the Philippines had little knowledge of.

Fukazawa learned that the Japanese parliament had passed a law recognizing and bestowing citizenship on descendants of Japanese nationals and soldiers who died during the war. He asked Domingo to provide him proof of his Japanese ancestry to help him locate the Sasakis in Japan.

Domingo returned the following day and gave Fukazawa his father's full identity, photos and marriage contract.

In just two weeks after the business executive left for Japan, Domingo received a telegram from the Japanese Embassy informing him that a round-trip ticket and travel money had been sent by his relatives to him through its Manila office.

He flew to Japan on the same month that the ticket and invitation arrived.

Touching reunion

"I [arrived] at the Narita Airport in 1974, overwhelmed with emotion [when] I saw my relatives waving placards bearing my name," Domingo recounted.

He passed out for a second or so, before he could even greet his grandparents, other next of kin and everyone else who welcomed him. His Japanese male relatives were quick to catch him before he slipped on the airport lobby. He was brought to a waiting car where he regained consciousness.

Later, he found out through his Japanese relatives, that the search for his father's family in Japan was broadcast on national television, using grabs of the photos and other documents he had given Fukazawa.

At 35, Domingo came to know more about his father, this time from the stories of his Japanese relatives.

Takezo, the father he knew only through countless tales from his mother, was the eldest in a brood of six children. He was born on May 6, 1899.

Seeking fortune and adventure outside Japan, Takezo, then 15 years old, went to the Philippines in 1914. In 1924, he returned to his homeland in what would turn out to be the last time his family would see him alive. He decided to return to the Philippines and settle there.

In Manila, he studied English and Spanish, and became conversant in Filipino as part of efforts to establish his residency and work status in his adopted country.

In the early 1920s, he moved to Naga and learned to speak Bicol.

He married Marcelina in a civil wedding on Feb. 6, 1928 and engaged in a buy-and-sell business in Tabuco, providing his family a comfortable life.

DOMINGO Sasaki San Lorenzo, 67, can now afford a smile with the basics in life and simple luxury within reach because of his Japanese roots.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

Lourdes San Lorenzo Oliva, 70, Domingo's older sister and the third child of Takezo, said his father managed to maintain frequent communication with his relatives in Japan. She said their father never failed to radio his parents in Japan every time a new baby was born.

All of his children were recorded in the family annals of the Sasakis in Hiroshima.

The couple had electricity in the house and a powerful radio transmitter until the war broke out in 1941.

Translator

During the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, Takezo became a translator of the Japanese Imperial Army and rendered military duty as guard of the Japanese garrison where captured and suspected guerrillas and their supporters were imprisoned and tortured.

Domingo said his mother recounted how Takezo refused to go to the guerrilla camp in Moriones, Ocampo, Camarines Sur when he fled the American aerial bombardment.

"My father told my mother that he did not want his Japanese compatriots to see him as a traitor if he accepted the safe conduct pass and refuge offered by his Bicolano friend, a guerrilla commander by the name of Tacorda," he said.

"This guerrilla opened an opportunity for my father and the family, even as my father was in the service of the Japanese Imperial Army," he added.

But Takezo had other things in mind. He wanted to die in dignity.

"He believed that if he were with us, he would have endangered his entire family. So he chose to stay in our house and waited for his death," Domingo recalled.

Takezo's charred remains were retrieved by his compatriots, brought to Japan and buried in a shrine dedicated to Japanese war heroes in Hiroshima in the 1940s.

Domingo said 1974 was the most unforgettable period in his life when he was able to piece together his Japanese ancestry and help transform the lives of all members of the Sasaki clan in the Philippines.

Being of Japanese descent, all clan members—the fourth generation—were given automatic recognition as *nikki-jin* or half-Japanese. They were entitled to live, stay and work in Japan for as long as they wanted.

The Sasaki descendants were issued a *kosiki* or certificate of birth's ancestry that bestowed on them preferential treatment on immigration concerns and made them distinct from other foreign nationals working in Japan.

Entry to Japan

It was in 1997 when the full benefits accorded to a *nikki-jin* started to make a difference as far as Domingo is concerned. The second-generation Sasakis started to emigrate to Japan to work.

Seventy clan members, including the spouses of his nephews and nieces, were employed there, he said.

At present, all of Domingo's three children work in Japan. He and his wife take care of their grandchildren in Minalabac.

"I have a pension and our personal and domestic needs are provided by my children. Periodically, I visit my children and Japanese relatives," Domingo said.

His eldest daughter Emmy, who is on vacation in their hometown, explained that she did not intend to become a permanent resident in Japan.

She said her siblings just wanted to work there and earn at least more than thrice the salary an ordinary employee receives in the Philippines. "It's a very expensive place and you only go there to work, earn and save for the future," she said.

Domingo said he thanked God for the blessings because the opportunity for his family to work in Japan had given them a comfortable life he could not imagine that he could provide himself.

In the early years of his married life, he worked as a salesman of Radiowealth appliances. He also took on part-time jobs to augment his income.

Mayor Gil Basmayor, who knew the Sasaki clan, attested to Domingo's family as belonging to one of the poorest families in town.

The landscape of Barangays Hubo and Antipolo where they live changed when they became *nikki-jin*, said Basmayor.

Not so long ago, the Sasakis lived in humble shacks in the villages where they worked as farm laborers or tenants in rice farms.

It was, however, the legacy left behind by his father, a Japanese war hero, whose imprint is etched deep in Domingo's memories. His mother, who lived with him until she died at the age of 80, would have probably agreed.

Relatives of 'NPA rebels' arrested by cops appeal to GMA

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Tagaytay City

HUGGED BY THEIR MOTHER, the two girls, aged 2 and 3 years old, were both crying while asking for their father, whom they last saw on Friday before he left their house in Barangay Tolentino East in Tagaytay City in Cavite.

"Our children are always crying. They have been asking for their Daddy," said Sherill Masayes, 29, who was also in near tears.

Government troops arrested Michael Masayes on Friday on suspicion that he was a New People's Army guerrilla.

Just like the Masayes kids, the family of Rico Ybañez was still in shock after seeing him handcuffed in a flash report on ABS-CBN. He was held by police as another rebel.

"My sick mother is always in tears. She's always waiting for words on the whereabouts of my father," Enmar, Ybañez's eldest son, said.

The families of Ybañez, 59, and Masayes, 29, have appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo and police officials to immediately release the two.

"My husband is not an NPA member," Sherill wanted to tell the President.

"We want to work for their release but we don't even know where they are. We've been to Camp Crame, but we were told by police that they are not there. They instead referred us to the Canlubang police camp," Enmar said.

The families strongly denied that the two are communist guerrillas.

"He's not a subversive. My father maintains a pineapple plantation for a living," said Enmar.

Ybañez and Masayes, both of Barangay Tolentino East in Tagaytay, treat each other like father and son. Both are cockfighting aficionados, according to barangay residents.

Gamblers

"They are both gambling hustlers but definitely not NPA members," said a former village official.

Masayes is also a caretaker of fighting cocks and acts as cockpit "*cristo.*"

The two families swore that the gambling buddies were not members of any leftist organization.

According to Enmar, a person arrived in their house on Friday afternoon and rented their Lancer car for a trip in the nearby Talisay City in Batangas.

Sherill said Ybañez dropped by their house and picked up Masayes to serve as his companion in the trip back to Tagaytay.

"Before he left, he even asked me to cook his favorite pork *adobo* for dinner. But they never came back until we received the information that they were arrested," she said.

On Sunday, the human rights group Karapatan-Southern Tagalog reported that two Cavite peasant activists and three Batangas farmers had been missing in the boundary of Tagaytay and Batangas province.

Police presentation

The next day, police reported the arrest in Tagaytay of six suspected NPA members who had allegedly planned to sabotage Monday's celebration of Labor Day.

Ybañez and Masayes were presented by police as two of the suspects. Also arrested were Aris Sarmiento, Marvin Galang, Axel Alejandro Pinpin and Riel Custodio.

Allegedly recovered from the group were antigovernment documents lifted from two laptop computers and flash disks, maps, assorted receipts allegedly representing the purchase of improvised explosive component, and mobile phones.

Laura, wife of Sarmiento, said police had not allowed them to see or talk with her husband. She appealed to authorities to allow the suspects to defend themselves.

Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla attested that three of the five arrested men were legitimate peasant leaders in his district.

Remulla raised doubts over the claims of the police and the Navy intelligence group that Pinpin, Custodio and Sarmiento were collared after attending a meeting with other communist rebels in Tagaytay.

The three were held together with Ybañez and Masayes at about 6 a.m. last Friday.

Peasant leaders

But Remulla said he could vouch that the arrested men were leaders of the Kalipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-Ka), the provincial chapter of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

Remulla admitted that he was close to Pinpin, a former information officer of Kamagsasaka-Ka and that Pinpin's group helped him in the 2004 elections.

"I know personally Antoy because he used to ask for my help in their advocacies for the farmers. I even gave their office a computer," he added.

Remulla, who represents the province's third district, which is largely agricultural, is also known to be an ardent supporter and advocate of farmers' rights in Cavite.

Supt. Rodel Sermonia, Cavite police intelligence chief, said the arrested men were indeed leaders of a farmers' group in the province. *With a report from Marlon Ramos*

"Ayaw ko
ng flying kiss,
gusto ko
lips to lips."

Posible na 'yan.

Introducing

Globe 3G
Mobile Broadband
with **HSDPA**

Video IDD

First to offer international video calling.
Now you can *see* and talk to your
loved ones overseas at affordable rates,
equivalent to regular IDD calls
(US$0.40/min) until May 30, 2006.

Available to Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, as well as countries in Europe: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Hungary, Luxembourg, and Poland.

Globe 3G roaming is also available to postpaid subscribers visiting Singapore and Hong Kong. Other countries will be added soon.

*To make an international video call,
dial (+)(country code)(mobile phone number)
and press video call (ex. +6512345678).*

*Kaya subukan na ang lakas ng
Globe Mobile Broadband 3G with HSDPA!*

*Want to know more?
Call Globe at **211** or **730-1000**
Visit **www.betterthan3g.com***

puwede po! ang lakas mo sa

Globe

Aplus METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Manhunt on for 5 suspects in casino financier's slay /A18

■ Vendor tags accused cop in Dacer-Corbito double murder case /A18

■ Manila set to break Guinness breastfeeding record /A18

DESPITE petitions from transport groups for an increase, the LTFRB will stick to its policy of maintaining current fare prices, while watching out for a rise in diesel prices. AFP

LTFRB rules out fare increase

Agency to monitor diesel cost

By Alcuin Papa

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISing Regulatory Board (LTFRB) yesterday ruled out any fare increase until diesel pump prices reach P35 per liter.

And even if prices do reach the P35 level, LTFRB chair Ma. Elena Bautista stressed that this does not mean that she would automatically approve pending petitions for fare hikes as she would have to first study the possible effects and repercussions of such a move.

Diesel now costs P32.79 to P34.32 per liter as Shell, Petron, Chevron Philippines, Total and Unioil raised their pump prices by 50 centavos per liter on April 30.

Bautista told reporters at the Fernandina Forum in Greenhills, San Juan, that her agency was not likely to entertain any fare hike petition at the moment, in line with the government's policy of keeping transport fares at their present level.

Adding that a fare raise was not the answer to spiraling oil prices worldwide, Bautista said the government has already prepared several measures to cushion the effect of rising oil prices worldwide. These include the use of alternative fuel and the possible suspension of tariff rates imposed on petroleum products.

Transport groups had earlier warned commuters that they would seek a fare hike following a series of fuel price hikes implemented by local oil firms.

Among the groups which had filed a petition with the LTFRB were the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organization which is seeking an increase of P1.50, and the United Transport Coalition, which has asked for a hike of P1.25.

Other groups with pending petitions are the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines, the Alliance of Transport Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines, Makati Jeepney Operators and Drivers Alliance, and the National Transport Workers Union (NTWU).

Operators of air-conditioned buses have also asked for a P2 increase while ordinary bus operators are seeking a 90-centavo adjustment.

'Pink Cloth' picks up steam

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A TRAFFIC ENFORCER OF THE METropolitan Manila Development Authority was summoned by Angelito Vergel de Dios, the agency's Traffic Operations Center director, after he failed to implement the "Pink Cloth" traffic scheme during rush hour near the Magallanes Interchange in Makati City.

Vergel de Dios said he immediately asked Faustino Vecino for an explanation after receiving a complaint from a commuter.

"There have been no other complaints except this one. The commuter was upset by the delay, saying that she waited for almost 30 minutes before she was able to get a ride. That's why she scolded the enforcer for not implementing the pink cloth scheme," the MMDA official added.

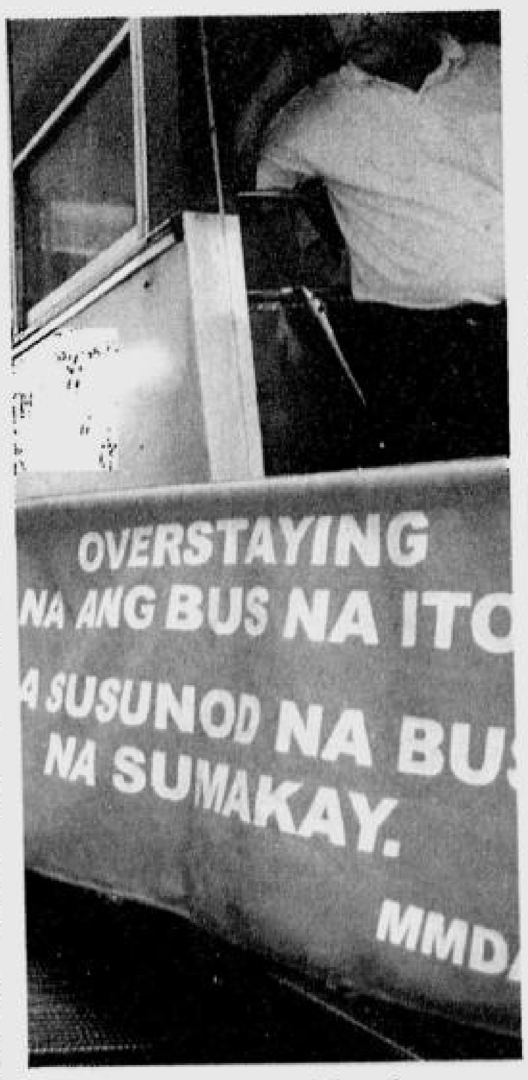
Vergel de Dios, meanwhile, said the incident indicated that a lot of people knew about the MMDA's latest campaign to instill discipline in bus drivers plying Edsa.

"There's already an awareness about it because of the publicity," he said.

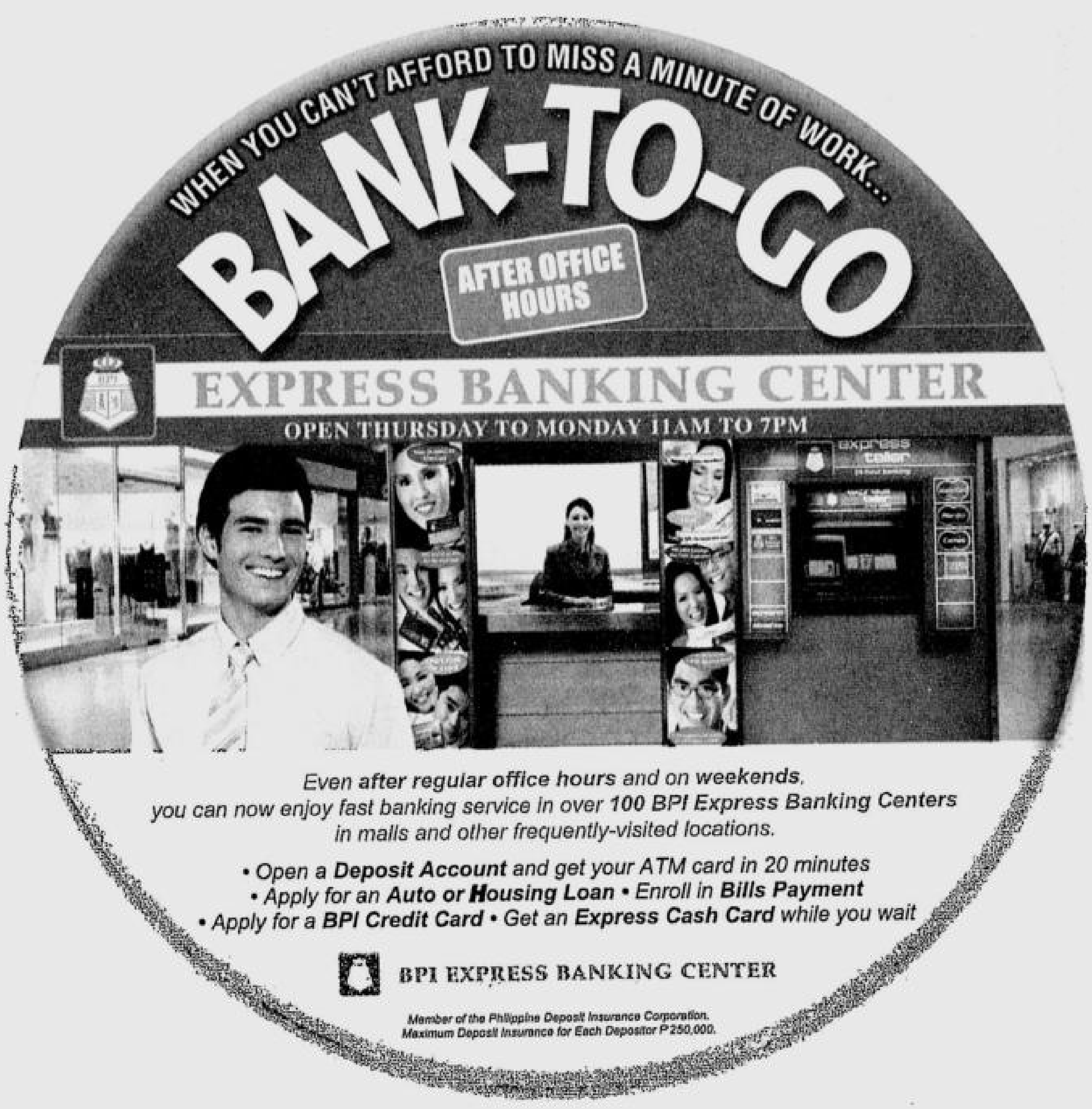
The "Pink Cloth" scheme is aimed at discouraging bus drivers from hogging loading points for passengers along Edsa.

Under the scheme, MMDA traffic enforcers raise a pole with a pink cloth attached to it in front of bus doors to prevent more passengers from boarding.

The campaign was first implemented in Cubao, Quezon City, last week, followed by the southbound lane of Edsa near Ayala Avenue in Makati City, both sides of Edsa near North Avenue in Quezon City, and the Magallanes Interchange.



WAVING the pink flag at Cubao: An experiment in traffic discipline EDWIN BACASMAS


WHEN YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS A MINUTE OF WORK...
BANK-TO-GO
AFTER OFFICE HOURS
EXPRESS BANKING CENTER
OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY 11AM TO 7PM

*Even after regular office hours and on weekends, you can now enjoy fast banking service in over **100 BPI Express Banking Centers** in malls and other frequently-visited locations.*

- *Open a **Deposit Account** and get your ATM card in 20 minutes*
- *Apply for an **Auto or Housing Loan*** • *Enroll in **Bills Payment***
- *Apply for a **BPI Credit Card*** • *Get an **Express Cash Card** while you wait*

BPI EXPRESS BANKING CENTER

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

Schedule: May 22 - 26, 2006

COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES:

A five-day program that brings together key leaders of the Philippine Real Estate Industry to:

- Present current trends and prospects in the Philippine Real Estate Industry; and
- Provide participants with a workable framework for identifying, screening and evaluating entrepreneurial opportunities in the Philippine real estate industry.

COURSE COVERAGE:

a. Business prospects in various real estate products: residential, commercial, retail, leisure, farms, memorial parks, hotels and others
b. Business prospects in real estate services: planning, project management, marketing and sales, leasing, and property management
c. Business arising from bank acquired assets
d. Development of analytical frameworks to help scan, assess and implement identified opportunities in the Philippine real estate industry

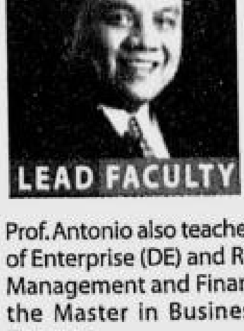
COURSE CONTENT:

- External Assessment / Industry Analysis
  - Framework on Opportunity Seeking, Screening & Assessment
    - Framework for Strategizing
- Micro Market Analysis

- Opportunities in the Various Real Estate Industry Sub-Sectors
  - Residential
  - Office and Commercial
  - Shopping Center
  - Leisure, Resort and Farm
  - Memorial Parks
  - Hotel

- Opportunities in Real Estate Services:
  - Master Planning and Design
  - Contracting
  - Sales and Marketing
  - Property Management
  - Financial Packaging and Investments in Property Projects

The faculty for this course, which is participated in by key industry players, is led by Professor Danilo A. Antonio, a current member of the Asian Center for Entrepreneurship [ACE] core faculty as a Guru in the Master in Entrepreneurship [ME] Program.



Prof. Antonio also teaches the Development of Enterprise (DE) and Real Estate/Property Management and Finance electives under the Master in Business Administration Program.

Prof. Antonio remains active in various business endeavors, particularly in the Philippine Real Estate industry, where he has accumulated over 27 years of experience in various aspects of the property business. He is CEO and founder of LAND-EXCEL Consulting, CEO of Phoenix Land Inc., developer of Las Haciendas Resort Farms, CEO of Excelsis Land, developer of Desta & Madison South residential villages and Chairman of Canyon Woods Resort Club.

Prof. Antonio holds a Master in Business Management degree (With Distinction) from the Asian Institute of Management (1978) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics Degree (Summa Cum Laude) from De La Salle University (1974).

EQUIS ACCREDITED

For inquiries and reservation call: Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Kay Velazco
Tel +632 892-4011 to 25 ext. 187, 432, 356, 332; Telefax +632 813-3302
Email: ace@aim.edu; lvillanueva@aim.edu; kvelazco@aim.edu

Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines

www.aim.edu

Manhunt on for 5 in financier's slay

NBI to ask for suspects' expatriation

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has launched a manhunt for five Chinese allegedly involved in the death of a casino financier late last year.

NBI Special Task Force chief Reynaldo Esmeralda yesterday said that arrest warrants had been issued for Lee Wei Jiang or Anthony Lee, Hua Hong or Xiao Feng, Huang Cheng De or Oti, William Co, and Yun Yao Feng. The five are from mainland China.

A sixth suspect, Allan Mendoza, was arrested shortly after Shi Bun Tok, or Emerson Sy, was found dead on Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City last December 1.

"We have information that the suspects fled to China after the incident," Esmeralda told reporters.

Esmeralda said that if the Bureau of Immigration confirms that the suspects had indeed left the country, the NBI would file a request for their extradition in the Department of Justice.

The NBI official said the motive for the killing appeared to be a fight between Sy and Lee over control of the casino.

Like Sy, Lee was also a financier, lending money to people who gambled in casinos. The four other Chinese, including Mendoza, worked for Lee. "Their squabble apparently involved millions of pesos," Esmeralda said.

The NBI STF chief said that Sy, a financier at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila, arrived at the Pan Pacific Hotel KTV bar on Nov. 30 for a drinking spree with several Chinese businessmen.

While Sy was asleep, Lee allegedly grabbed the victim's bag which contained P200,000 and ordered his men to mislead Sy's bodyguards so that they would leave the premises.

The suspects then brought Sy to a gray Honda Civic car driven by Mendoza.

The NBI STF chief said that during investigation, Mendoza admitted that Hua slit the victim's throat while he drove the car toward Macapagal Avenue where they allegedly dumped the victim's body.

STILL HOT

A boy dives while his companions swing from a rope before taking the plunge into the Pasig River to get relief from the heat. Summer may be nearly over, according to the weather bureau, but the temperature continues to soar. AP

Military camp a restricted area

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I MAY BE A JOURNALIST BUT I can't disagree with the orders of Gen. Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, restricting the movements of reporters inside Camp Aguinaldo.

Reporters are now allowed only in the vicinity of the AFP Public Information Office and the Defense Press Corps office.

Camp Aguinaldo, AFP general headquarters, is a military camp. And a military camp is a restricted area; meaning, not all places in it are accessible to civilians and unauthorized military personnel.

In the same way, the Pentagon, headquarters of the US armed forces, is a highly restricted area. American reporters assigned to cover the Pentagon are not allowed in sensitive areas in the huge military building complex.

There are places in a military camp that cannot be shown to civilians for security reasons. Media people, being civilians, should understand this.

* * *

Our government should throw its full support behind a Filipino domestic helper in Saudi Arabia who chopped off the sex organ of her employer when he sexually assaulted her.

The Pinay was just defending her honor. Like most Filipino provincial lasses (most housemaids come from the provinces), she was acting true to form. Provincial maidens would rather die or kill than get defiled.

The unnamed maid is now in a Saudi jail where conditions are worse than our jails. I've heard reports about Saudi guards sexually abusing both male and female inmates.

In several instances I have expressed no sympathy for our compatriots who ran afoul of the law in their host countries but who still were helped by our government. But this time around, this writer is appealing to our government to move heaven and earth to have the Filipino maid freed from detention and sent home immediately.

* * *

I wonder when we Filipinos will see the day when we stop sending our compatriots to work in countries where they are treated much like the African slaves in America in the 1700s.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders for the bidding of:

	ABC
Foodstuffs	**P3,374,938.00**

Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office. For inquiries, contact tel. nos. 735-71-44.

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-bid Conference	May 18, 2006	Reception Hall, 2:00 pm
Bid Opening	May 30, 2006	Anesthesia Office, 2:00 pm

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waived any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, M.D.**
Vice-Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 4 & 11, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Zamboanga City Water District** through its Bids and Awards Committee II (BAC II), invites contractors registered with and classified by the **Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB)** to apply for Eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Well Construction for Proposed Pasobolong-2 Production Well
Location : Pasobolong 2 Production Well
Brief Description : Well Construction for Proposed Pasobolong-2 Production Well to include Well Exploration and Well Development
Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) : P1,650,609.00
Contract Duration : 84 Working Days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective Contractors shall possess a valid PCAB License with a Registration Particular in Water Supply, had undertaken a similar project with an amount of 50% of the proposed project for the bidding, and have key personnel and equipment owned, leased, or under purchase available for prosecution of the project. The List of minimum equipment requirements indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The BAC shall use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Checking/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conferences shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete activities are listed:

BAC ACTIVITIES	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including	April 26 to May 5, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	May 2 to 5, 2006
3. Submission of Eligibility Requirements	May 8 to 12, 2006
4. Submission of Results of Eligibility Check	May 15, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 16 to 19, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	May 24, 2006
7. Submission and Opening of Bids	June 7, 2006

The Eligibility Forms will be available at the 3rd Floor, Zamboanga City Water District, Pilar St., Zamboanga City, upon their submission of Letter of Intent, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00), to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) to the Zamboanga City Water District Cashier.

The Zamboanga City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidder for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd) **ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.**
BAC II Chairman

(PDI - May 4, 2006)

Vendor tags policeman in Dacer-Corbito case

A POLICEMAN ACCUSED OF INvolvement in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case was positively identified yesterday by a witness as the man who had opened the door of the victims' white Toyota Revo in November 2000.

Willy Caboquin, 28, a sidewalk vendor from Makati City, tagged SPO4 Marino Soberano when he testified during a hearing held at the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18.

Soberano and four other policemen formerly assigned with the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), along with five civilian agents, have been charged with abducting and killing publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Caboquin recounted that at around 11 a.m. on Nov. 24, 2002, he saw a white car overtake a white Toyota Revo at the corner of Osmeña Highway and Zobel Roxas Street.

He said he saw a policeman, whom he later identified as Soberano, alight from the white car and knock on the driver's window. Soberano then opened the van's door, forced the driver to alight from the Revo and get into another car. "I saw the vehicles travel south, traversing on the Buendia flyover," Caboquin said in Filipino. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Manila set to top Guinness breastfeeding record

By Margaux C. Ortiz

READY, GET SET, NURSE!

Some 5,000 nursing mothers will gather in the City of Manila at 9 a.m. today to break the Guinness World Record on simultaneous breastfeeding.

The record-setting event will be held at the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate .

"This project is aimed at instilling the importance of breastfeeding as well as its health benefits," Mayor Lito Atienza said in a statement.

The current world record for the most number of women who participated in simultaneous breastfeeding is held by the City of Berkeley Women Infants Children Program in California. The organization was able to gather 1,130 mothers on Aug. 3, 2002 to set a record.

According to World Health Organization Philippines, 16,000 Filipino children die each year because of bottle-feeding while many others suffer from allergies and long-term illnesses such as juvenile hypertension, heart disease, diabetes, cancer and premature puberty "because of the formula milk menace."

Today's event will also emphasize the recommendation that children should be breastfed exclusively until they are six months old.

Republic of the Philippines
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
MIAA Administration Building, MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that Official Receipts Nos. 301851 - 301900 of the Manila International Airport Authority have been reported missing.

The public is therefore warned that any transaction entered into by anyone or any entity using these receipts will not be honored by this Office.

We advice the public to report to the MIAA authorities any person/s or entity representing themselves as agents of this Office. Please call telephone numbers 8771109 loc. 3180 or 8771744 for this purpose.

(PDI - May 4, 2006)

IAEB No. 2006-005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PITC-BAC)**, invites Contractors with current and valid PCAB License registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractor Association Board (PCAB) with CIAP Registration of at least Small B to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for hereunder project/contract:

Name of Contract Construction of the PITC BOTIKA NG BAYAN / PHARMA SALES OFFICE
Location Ground Floor, Orient Mansion Building, Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Brief Description Complete Construction of estimated 275 sq m. area for Botika ng Bayan / Pharma Sales Office Architectural / civil / electrical / mechanical works, plumbing / painting and other related works, cleaning and protecting the premises.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Two Million Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP2,350,000.00) *VAT inclusive*
Contract Duration Sixty (60) Calendar Days

The PITC-BAC calls for the submission of Letters of Intents (LOIs) from interested Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Complete Construction of the PITC BOTIKA NG BAYAN/PHARMA SALES OFFICE.

Bidding procedures shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The BAC will issue to interested bidders Eligibility Forms/Documents at the 4th Floor NDC Building, Tordesillas Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City c/o Ms. Helen R. Muncal, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon payment of non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00); and if found eligible shall purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) only

The schedule of BAC Activities are as follows:

	BAC ACTIVITIES	Date & Time	Venue / Address
1.	Submission of Interested Bidders' Letter of Intent (LOI) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	May 04 to 12, 2006	4th Floor NDC Bldg., 116 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City c/o Ms. Helen R. Muncal, BAC Secretariat
2.	Submission and Opening of Accomplished Eligibility Requirements	May 17, 2006, Deadline for submission : 12:00 noon Opening of Eligibility Docs. 1:30 pm	Same as above
3.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	May 22 – 23, 2006	Same as above
4	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 24 - 26, 2006	Same as above
5.	Pre-Bid Conference	May 29, 2006 02:00 pm	2nd Floor, NDC Bldg. Tordesillas St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City
6.	Site Inspection	May 29 – 30, 2006	G/F Orient Mansion, Tordesillas St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City (beside NDC Bldg.)
7	Submission and Opening of Bids	June 09, 2006 10:00 am	2nd Floor, NDC Bldg. Tordesillas St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City

PITC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby including any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. Further, PITC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective Bidders for any expenses incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd) **MARIO M. LEYGO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI May 4 & 10 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Drugs and Medicines
Name of Project

Amoxicillin, Clotrimazole, Cefalexin et al.
(Brief Description of GOODS)

1. The City Government of Zamboanga, through the General Fund 2006 intend to apply the sum of **SEVEN MILLION ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS (P7,137,520.00) ONLY** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Drugs and Medicines (PR No. 100-06-04-0752 & 100-06-04-0751)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **The City Government of Zamboanga** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Amoxicillin, Clotrimazole, Cefalexin et. al.** Delivery of the GOODS is required for **Ten (10) working days**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the law or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **City Government of Zamboanga-Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday starting April 27 to May 15, 2006**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **P1,900.00**. The method of payment will be **Cash payable to the City Treasurers Office**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **May 02, 2006; 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM, May 15, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check** payable to the City Treasurer, **Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit** and in the amount of **P71,375.20** or **Bank Guarantee** in the amount of **P107,062.80** or **Surety Bond** in the amount of **P178,438** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **May 15, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. **To be delivered in the Office of the City General Services Intended for the Office of the City Health.**
10. The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Awards Division
Milagros W.S. Saavedra
City Hall, N.S. Valderosa St., Z.C.
Tel. Fax 992-7763 or 991-0862

(Sgd.) **ATTY. SAMUEL A. MARIANO**
BAC Vice-Chairman

(PDI April 27 & May 4 2006)

Berlusconi resigns as Italian premier; Prodi to take over

ROME—PRIME MINISTER SILVIO Berlusconi formally handed in his resignation Tuesday after five turbulent years at the helm of Italian politics, paving the way for a new center-left government under Romano Prodi.

The flamboyant conservative leader submitted his resignation to President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi following last month's defeat to Prodi's coalition in the closest general election in living memory.

In a statement, Ciampi's office said Berlusconi "submitted his resignation from the government he heads" and had been asked by the president "to stay in charge to handle current affairs."

The resignation of 69-year-old Berlusconi, Italy's longest-serving premier since World War II, now opens the way for Prodi to take over.

Ciampi, 85, whose presidential mandate runs out May 18, must decide whether to appoint Prodi or leave it to his successor.

The decision could come earlier than expected, since the new speaker of the chamber of deputies set a May 8 date for the election of the new president.

That decision will be made in a plenary session grouping the two chambers of parliament and representatives of the country's 20 regions.

In the meantime, Prodi has been continuing negotiations with his coalition—a fragile alliance stretching from communists to centrists—on the shape of his government.

The 66-year-old former European Commission chief said he wanted to be ready with a lineup by Thursday or Friday this week in case Ciampi decided quickly to appoint him and ask him to form a government.

He has already selected most of his ministers and key government appointees except for the portfolios of interior and defense, according to reports.

If Ciampi leaves to his successor a decision on appointing Prodi, it would extend the uncertainty by at least another week, leaving Italy facing the kind of institutional semi-paralysis it can ill afford.

Berlusconi had initially refused to recognize the results of the April 9-10 election until it was validated by the courts.

But he was left with no choice but to quit after the new parliament elected members from Prodi's coalition as speakers of the lower and upper houses.

Nevertheless, Berlusconi—renowned for his sharp tongue, persistent legal woes, pro-American stance, domination of the media and colossal wealth—has openly declared his aim of toppling the new government. *AFP*

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
6CB-GSC-016

PURCHASE OF VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES

(Name of Project)
545 items of different office supplies (pls see details @ www.gensantos.gov.ph and also @ www.procurementservice.org)

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Three Million Two Hundred Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Three Pesos and 33/100 (P3,253,873.33)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Various Office Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Various Office Supplies. Delivery of the GOODS is required by the **30 calendar days**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P1,000.00 to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested on **May 16, 2006, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of May 30, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a half Percent (1½%) of ABC or Surety Bond Equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2½%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of May 30, 2006 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 301-3834
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 4 & 11, 2006)

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
6CB-GSC-015

PURCHASE OF VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES

(Name of Project)
162 items of different Construction supplies (pls see details @www.gensantos.gov.ph. and also @ www.procurementservice.org.)

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City**, through the CY 2006 Annual Budget intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three Pesos and 93/100 (P2,557,853.93)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Various Construction Supplies. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Purchase of Various Construction Supplies. Delivery of the GOODS is required **by 30 calendar days**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsive of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **P1,000.00** to the City Treasurer's Office. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative.

The Local Government Unit of General Santos City will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested on **May 16, 2006, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City.**

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of May 30, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit equivalent to One Percent (1%) of ABC or Bank Guarantee equivalent to One and a half Percent (1½%) of ABC or Surety Bond equivalent to Two and a half Percent (2½%) of ABC or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **2:00 o'clock in the afternoon of May 30, 2006 at the BAC Office, 2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The **Local Government Unit of General Santos City** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, Right Wing, City Hall Building, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-0553, (083) 301-3834
Fax: (083) 301-0553
website address: www.gensantos.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 4 & 11, 2006)

Goal of immigration protests still elusive

WASHINGTON—THE NASCENT immigrant rights movement showed on Monday that it could build an organization, mobilize hundreds of thousands of people across the country and wield economic power.

But the protesters do not appear to have achieved their primary goal—changing votes in Congress. And some critics say the demonstration may have generated a backlash, hardening positions on Capitol Hill.

The protests, which began in March and resumed on Monday with a boycott of work, school and shops, have clearly grabbed the nation's attention when the issue of illegal immigration is high on the agenda in Washington.

The heightened attention will make it difficult for Congress to duck the question of what to do with the estimated 11 million to 12 million people living illegally in the United States.

Although the outpouring has drawn comparisons to the civil rights movement of the 1960s, questions remain about whether the protesters can translate their passion into political results.

Some companies closed on Monday, yet it is too early to assess the economic effects of the boycott. The effects were diminished because many workers notified their employers ahead of time that they planned to take the day off.

Some advocates who support "comprehensive immigration reform," the idea that illegal workers should be put on a path to citizenship, say the protests have given that concept an important lift in the debate on Capitol Hill.

New York Times Service

WORLDBRIEFS

Iran threatens Israel

TEHRAN—Iran threatened on Tuesday to attack Israel in response to any "evil" act by the United States and said it had enriched uranium to a level close to the maximum compatible with civilian use in power stations. The defiant statements were issued shortly before world powers met in Paris late on Tuesday to plan their next moves after Tehran rejected a UN call to halt uranium enrichment. "We have announced that wherever America does something evil, the first place that we target will be Israel," ISNA quoted a senior Revolutionary Guards commander, Rear Adm. Mohammad-Ebrahim Dehqani, as saying on Tuesday. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for the Jewish state to be "wiped off the map." *Reuters*

Top al-Qaida leader nabbed

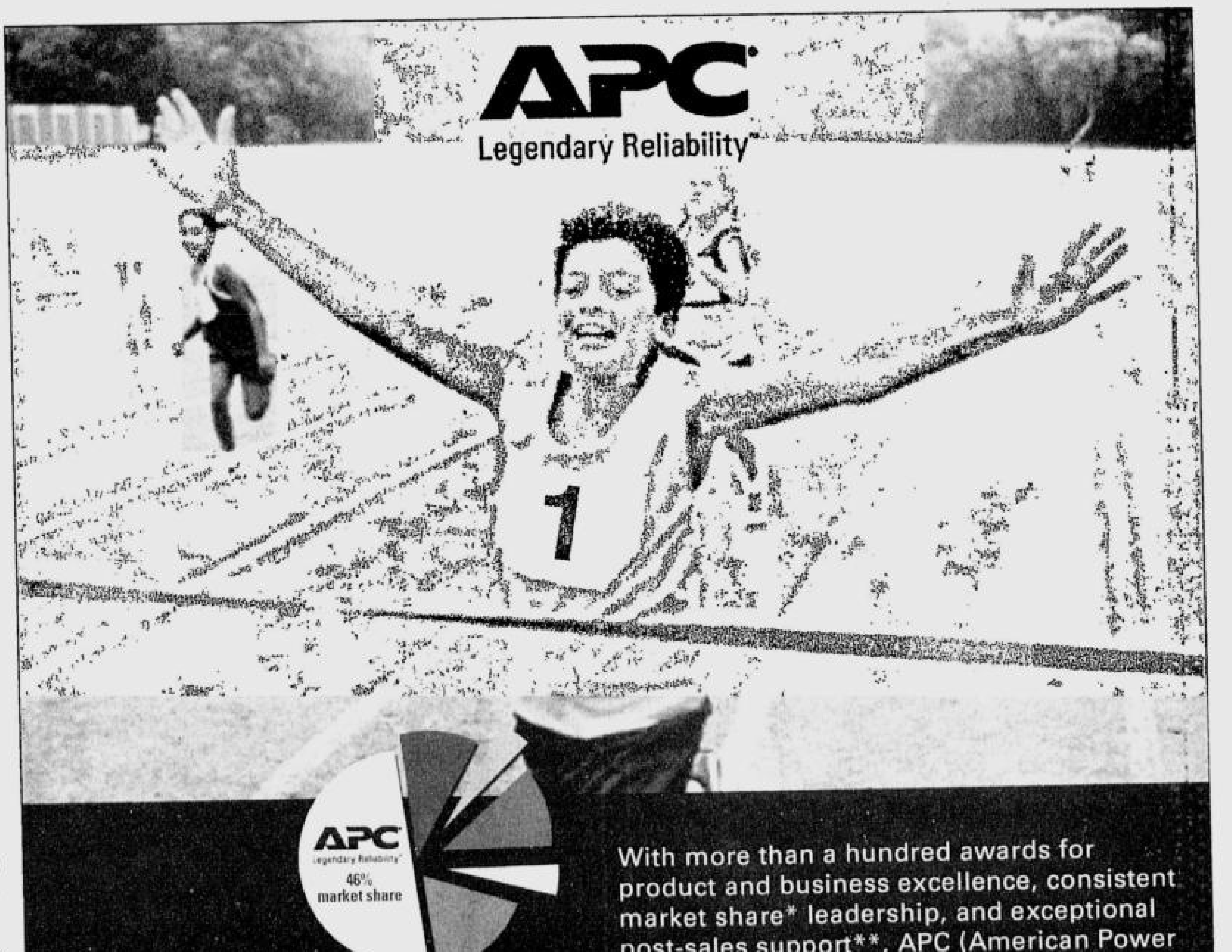
KABUL—A top al-Qaida strategist with a US$5-million bounty on his head and followers from Afghanistan to Europe has been captured in Pakistan, a US law enforcement official confirmed. Mustafa Setmarian Nasar, who once wrote a 1,600-page autobiographical book on ways to attack Islam's enemies, has been flown out of the country after being interrogated by Pakistani and American authorities, Pakistani officials told The Associated Press on Tuesday. They did not specify where he was taken. Terror analysts said Nasar's capture has dealt a blow to al-Qaida and other militant movements he aided through his virulent anti-Western writings and weapons training. His movements have been traced to Sudan, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria and two European capitals. *AP*

2 German hostages freed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Two German hostages were released in Iraq after a three-month ordeal. Berlin announced that the two gas engineers Rene Braeunlich, 32, and Thomas Nitzschke, 28, had been freed after they were seized outside a refinery in northern Iraq on Jan. 24. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said from Chile that he had spoken to the hostages and they were doing relatively well under the circumstances. The two were working for a German company when they were abducted, a few weeks after US journalist Jill Carroll was abducted in Baghdad. She was released on March 30. The kidnappers of the Germans, who said they were members of a group called Ansar al-Tawheed wal Sunna (Followers of Unity and Prophetic Tradition), issued several demands to the German government in the past three months. *AFP*

Kyrgyz gov't resigns en masse

BISHKEK—Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev refused Tuesday to accept the resignation en masse of the government, deepening political turmoil in the Central Asian republic a year after a popular revolt. The attempt by all 16 members of the government to resign followed a critical vote in parliament last week. The resignations also came amid mounting street protests and fears of politically inspired violence in the impoverished but strategically placed ex-Soviet republic, which hosts both Russian and US military bases. "The entire government resigned, but the president did not accept," Deputy Prime Minister Adakhan Madumarov said. "We consider we have not got the moral right to stay in our posts after the parliament's unsatisfactory evaluation of our work." *AFP*



For your peace of mind, who will you trust to support your critical information - may they be in the home or your data center - brands that are considerably priced lower or one that almost has a 50% market share?

With more than a hundred awards for product and business excellence, consistent market share* leadership, and exceptional post-sales support**, APC (American Power Conversion) is synonymous worldwide and in the Philippines with top-notch back-up power and data center infrastructure solutions.

And we couldn't have done this without our customers and partners who have placed APC as the clear market winner over its competitors.

APC. Always a step ahead.

APC Distributors:
better solutions AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC. Tel. No. 723-0601
innovista technologies incorporated Tel. No. 723-4278
msi-ecs (formerly MSI-Digiland Phils. Inc.) Tel. No. 688-3810

*According to the study entitled "Philippines UPS Markets" published by Frost & Sullivan, the global Growth Consulting company, APC was the leading UPS supplier in the less than 1 kVA range in 2005.

**The APC On-Site Stock Swap Policy: Free delivery and pull-out of defective equipment. Stock-swap with corresponding equipment model. Available on all BackUPS, SmartUPS and Symmetra models. Nationwide coverage. Equipment should be under warranty. To avail of this service, contact APC's toll free number at 1-800-1651-0302 or 916-6457 (press 2)

Armenian jet crashes off Russia; 113 killed

ADLER, RUSSIA—DIVERS SEARCHED STORM-CHURNED waters off Russia's Black Sea coast Wednesday, searching for the remains of 113 people who were killed when an Armenian passenger airliner crashed in rough weather as it was heading for a landing, emergency officials said.

It was the worst air disaster in Armenia's recent history.

Armenian airline officials said they believed the crash was due to the stormy weather, and Russian Emergency Situations Ministry spokesperson Viktor Beltsov said this was considered the likeliest cause. He said that the clouds were as low as 100 meters above the ground at the time of the crash.

Earlier, Russian officials said that the age of the aircraft and technical factors could have been involved. Investigators did not believe terrorism was a factor.

The Airbus A-320, which belonged to the Armenian airline Armavia, disappeared from radar screens just under 6 km from the shore and crashed after making a turn and heading toward the Adler airport near the Russian resort of Sochi, Beltsov said. Rescue officials in the ministry's southern regional branch said the 105 passengers and eight crew members aboard the plane flying from the Armenian capital Yerevan, including six children, were all killed.

In Sochi's airport, about 100 tearful relatives—nearly all Armenians—kept up an anguished vigil in a waiting hall. One man became hysterical and had to be taken away by ambulance.

Women, sobbing, held handkerchiefs to their mouths, while men sat silently, their heads in their hands.

Aram Sargasian, 22, said he had two uncles on the ill-fated plane who had been heading to Sochi for a weeklong vacation. The city has a large ethnic Armenian population.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Armenian President Robert Kocharian declared Friday a day of mourning in both countries, the Kremlin said.

Wreckage from the plane was found not far from the shoreline, Beltsov said, and Sergei Kudinov, the head of the southern district office of the Emergency Situations Ministry, said the fuselage was found at a depth of 400 meters.

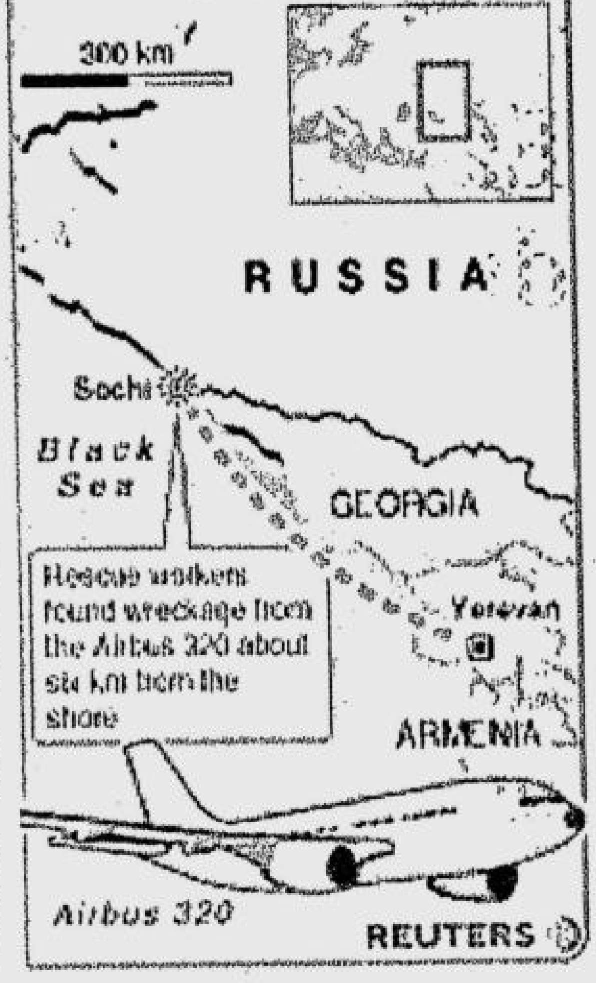
Search and rescue teams have pulled 33 bodies from the water, regional emergency officials said; none was wearing a life jacket, indicating they did not have sufficient warning to prepare for an emergency landing.

The airline said that 26 Russians, one Ukrainian and one Georgian were among the passengers. The rest were Armenian citizens.

Twenty-five boats as well as divers were involved in the search, and a deep-sea robot was to be used to try to recover the plane's black box, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. *AP*

RUSSIA CRASH

An Armenian aircraft carrying 113 people from Yerevan to the Russian resort of Sochi crashed into the Black Sea on Wednesday, officials said


300 km
RUSSIA
Sochi
Black Sea
GEORGIA
Rescue workers found wreckage from the Airbus 320 about six km from the shore
Yerevan
ARMENIA
Airbus 320

REUTERS

2005 was deadliest year for journalists in a decade

PARIS—LAST YEAR WAS THE deadliest for journalists in a decade, with 63 reporters and five media aides killed, the French press freedom body Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders, RSF) said Tuesday.

Iraq accounted for 24 of the deaths.

An estimated 1,300 reporters were attacked or threatened, the organization said in its annual report, issued to mark the 16th International Press Freedom day on Wednesday.

Not since 1995, "when the Islamist Algerian groups were trying to attack everyone who did not back them," has the toll been so high, RSF said.

So far this year, 16 journalists and six media aides have been killed and 120 journalists and 56 cyber-dissidents are behind bars for having tried to do their job, RSF said.

It observed that almost a third of the world's population lives in countries where there is no press freedom.

In Africa, it said, "impunity is not an unfortunate hazard, it is the rule," pointing to the unpunished murders of Norbert Zongo in 1998 in Burkina Faso and of Deyda Hydara in 2004 in Gambia.

"States also systematically repress the press without having to account to anyone at all," in, for example, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

Latin America is also a "high risk zone": seven journalists and a media aide died there last year.

Cuba remains the world's largest jailer of journalists, second only to China. Colombia is in the grip of a 40-year-old civil war but Mexico overtook it last year as the most deadly country for the press on the continent.

In Peru and Haiti attacks and threats are commonplace. In the United States the principle of confidentiality of sources was "ill-treated" with the jailing of Judith Miller, a reporter with the New York Times.

Asia is ill "with authoritarianism," said RSF.

In Nepal, King Gyanendra symbolized "all the autocratic hatred that some heads of state entertain toward the freedom of the press" in North Korea, Burma and China.

At the same time the continent is also the land of democracy, with India filling the role of "Asian giant of press freedom."

Iraq was the most dangerous place to work, followed by the Philippines where seven journalists were killed.

Conditions also deteriorated in the states of the former Soviet Union, in particular in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Russia and Uzbekistan.

The European Union, in particular Belgium, France, Italy and Poland, saw "a high number of searches and summons of journalists, ordered to hand over to the police the names of their sources."

By contrast the new EU member states had made "spectacular" progress: the Baltic states, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Slovakia and Slovenia are "havens of peace," as are the countries of northern Europe, RSF said.

In North Africa and the Middle East "the freedom and safety of journalists are severely tested," RSF said.

With 27 deaths, 24 of them in Iraq, the Middle East was the most dangerous region for the press. *AFP*

DON'T MISS YOUR COPY!

CALL THE INQUIRER CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE
896-6000

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

rer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Early duel for UP-PAF, Air21

GAMES TODAY (*PUP Grounds*)
Men: 7 a.m.—Pampanga vs RTU; 8:30 a.m.—Bulacan vs Cabuyao; 10 a.m.—Cebu City vs Army. **Women:** 11:30 a.m.—Laguna vs PUP; 1 p.m.—UP-Air Force vs Bacolod Jr.
(*Rizal Memorial Field*)
Women: 7 a.m.—RTU vs Bacolod Jr.; 8:30 a.m.—Air21/Adamson vs UP-Air Force; 10 a.m.—Bacolod Sr. vs Manila; 11:30 a.m.—RTU vs PUP; 1 p.m.—Air21/Adamson vs Laguna

By Marc Anthony Reyes

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-Philippine Air Force and Air21-Adamson crushed separate rivals to stay unbeaten in three games in the women's division of the National Open softball championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial football field.

UP-Air Force blanked the World Series-bound Manila Golden Girls, 3-0, while Air21-Adamson was even impressive in a 7-0 thrashing of 2002 champ Rizal Technological University.

The two part ways when they clash today at 8:30 a.m. in what could be a preview of the finals.

"Both teams have superior lineups over the rest and the match could provide a glimpse of what will happen in the championships," said chief organizer Boy Codiñera of the Amateur Softball Association-Philippines.

Bacolod Senior, which is going to the Delaware World Series in August, started the day with an 11-0 rout of RTU for a 2-1 record.

Manila continued its buildup for the Kalamazoo Big League, also in August, by posting a 10-4 victory over Laguna to raise its slate to 2-1 even as Bacolod Junior, also gearing up for the World Series in Washington, dumped Bulacan, 5-2, for its second straight win.

Over at the PUP grounds, Air Force unleashed its might on Bulacan, 19-0, to also remain unbeaten in the men's division with three victories.

In other men's action, Pampanga downed Cebu City, 3-1, while Polytechnic University blasted Davao, 9-1.

The top four teams after the single-round elimination move up to the Page System next round.

POLYTECHNIC'S Hana Garcia (left) cowers as she tries to beat the throw to third base, manned by Bulacan's Nina Buenaventura. ROMY HOMILLADA

Torion stars as Realtors tame Tigers

By Musong R. Castillo

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Red Bull

IF NOT FOR THE CALL TO RE-turn to the Philippine Basketball Association, Jimwell Torion would still be in his native Cebu, strutting his stuff in a local semi-professional tournament there.

Now the wily 5-foot-8 guard is making the most out of a rejuvenated career.

Torion came off the bench in the second half last night and figured in a lot of key plays as Sta. Lucia downed Coca-Cola, 99-95, to snap the Realtors' three-game losing streak in the Gran Matador-Philippine Cup.

Plucked out of short retirement by the last team that took a chance on the talented but temperamental playmaker, Torion scored 11 points, hauled down four boards and stole three times to prop the Realtors to their third win in 11 games.

"We're down but not out of it," coach Alfrancis Chua said. "This win is a big boost for us."

Chua also made special mention of Marlou Aquino, who has been battling injuries of late. The 6-foot-9 slotman scored 16 points in a reserve role and swatted away two shots to join an elite club with more than 900 blocks.

Aquino joined Philip Cezar, Benjie Paras, Abet Guidaben, Jerry Codiñera and Ramon Fernandez as the only players ever to reach that plateau.

Coca-Cola, which took a third straight loss but stayed in third with a 6-5 card, had control until the end of the third period, 77-73.

But there was no stopping the Realtors once they took the lead at 81-79 courtesy of an Aquino layup made possible by a Torion outlet pass.

In the second game, Jeffrey Cariaso made the cushion free throws as Alaska defeated Talk 'N Text, 92-89.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 99—Tolomia 17, Aquino 16, Omolon 12, Torion 11, Cabagnot 10, Espino 10, Mendoza 9, Gonzales 5, Calimag 4, Santos 3, Catli 2.

COCA-COLA 95—Antonio 22, Peek 18, Singson 10, Reavis 9, Miranda 8, Mamaril 7, Wainwright 7, Abarrientos 7, Arigo 7.

Quarters: 28-29, 41-51, 73-77, 99-95

La Salle spikers still unscathed, trip Lyceum

MANILLA SANTOS LED THE ATTACK WHILE Jacqueline Alarca shone in defense as La Salle drubbed Lyceum, 25-17, 25-21, 25-20, last night to keep its spotless record in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

GAMES SUNDAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
4 p.m.—Ateneo vs PCU
6 p.m.—Adamson vs Far Eastern

The 20-year-old Santos launched power-packed spikes to finish with 13 points even as Alarca notched four of her 12 points on blocks as the Lady Archers scored their third straight win to join Adamson in the lead.

La Salle needed just over an hour to slip past the Lady Pirates who groped for form all game long despite the the heroics of Ma. Concepcion Legaspi who accounted for 10 points.

Thai import Jindarat Kanchana also accounted for 12 points, including 11 winners for La Salle, while Michelle Datuin chipped in eight points highlighted by two blocks.

Santos had 31 spike attempts as she assumed the role left by former chief gunner Michelle Carolino. And she found a perfect foil in 5-foot-9 Alarca, who has displayed a fighting heart rarely seen in 18-year-olds.

Far Eastern University defeated Ateneo, 25-8, 25-7, 25-19, 25-23, in the second game.

The Lady Tamaraws improved their record with their second win in three games. The Lady Eagles, on the other hand, dropped to 1-2.

Marc Anthony Reyes and Lawrence Kionisana

Rain or Shine, Toyota Otis eye solo 2nd

IT SEEMED LIKE RAIN OR SHINE COACH Leo Austria was just being modest.

"Any team can win this conference," said Austria before his defending champion Painters tackled the struggling Harbour Centre in the PBL Unity Cup last Sunday.

True enough, Harbour Centre scored an upset win, 59-56, over Austria's veteran squad.

Rain or Shine tries to bounce back from that stinging loss today when the Painters collide with the Toyota Otis Sparks for solo second spot at 4 p.m. at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque.

"Every game is important for us and if we can beat Rain or Shine, that will be a good indication for our team," said Sparks coach Louie Alas.

Meanwhile, Harbour Centre tackles Hapee-PCU earlier at 2 p.m. minus leading scorer Joseph Yeo, who will serve a one-game suspension for a wayward elbow thrown at Rain or Shine's Gilbert Malabanan.

The absence of Yeo, who averages 14.8 points per game, is expected to cripple Harbour Centre and coach Jorge Gallent could only hope that the Portmasters would respond the same way they did after Yeo's ejection late in the third quarter of their winning match versus Rain or Shine.

Second-stringer Chico Lanete stepped up big for the Portmasters down the stretch, burying a key three-pointer with only 40 seconds left.

"When Yeo was thrown out, it was a wake-up call for the players," said Gallent. "I hope we'll again play as a team."

Harbour Centre and Hapee-PCU, both loaded with collegiate stars, are trying to avoid elimination as the last two placers of the round.

In contrast, the top two squads will earn outright semifinal berths.

Rain or Shine and Toyota Otis, holding similar 7-3 cards, have been fighting for this semifinal incentive along with idle league-leader Montana Jewels.

The Elasto Painters, who edged the Sparks, 73-67, in the first round, will try to score a repeat behind their intimidating frontline.

Marvin Ortiguerra and Jay-R Reyes, who teamed up for 25 points in their last outing, have been leading Rain or Shine which has a clear height advantage over Toyota Otis.

With only four games left in the double round-robin phase, Hapee-PCU cannot afford to drop a fourth straight game.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Montaña	8	2
Toyota Otis	7	3
R. or Shine	7	3
G. Goose	5	5
Magnolia	4	6
Harbour	4	6
Hapee-PCU	3	7
TeleTech	2	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Hapee-PCU
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Rain or Shine

Nat'l beach volley under way

By Musong R. Castillo

BORACAY ISLAND, AKLAN—FOR three days, sun, sand and surf will not be the main fares in this island paradise.

Twenty-four teams coming from all over the country slug it out starting today with the world-famous, powder-like white sand here as playground of the 10th Nestea National Beach Volley championships.

Four sides from each of the men's and women's divisions represent each of the country's three main islands, all gunning for the prestige of being the national champion and the P100,000 winner's purse that goes with it.

St. Benilde shoots for a second straight title in men's play, and the women's race is considered wide-open after "four-peat"-seeking Southwestern University failed to make it past the regionals.

Benilde is here representing Luzon along with Far Eastern, Adamson and St. Francis and all will be bracketed into different groups for the elimination round where they will join one team each coming from the Visayas and Mindanao.

The Adamson Lady Falcons, the champions here in 2002, Letran, St. Benilde and the University of Baguio are Luzon's representatives in women's play.

Foundation University, which won five years ago, University of San Carlos, University of Negros Occidental Recoletos and 2002 and 2004 champ University of San Jose Recoletos qualified as the Visayas' representatives in the men's division.

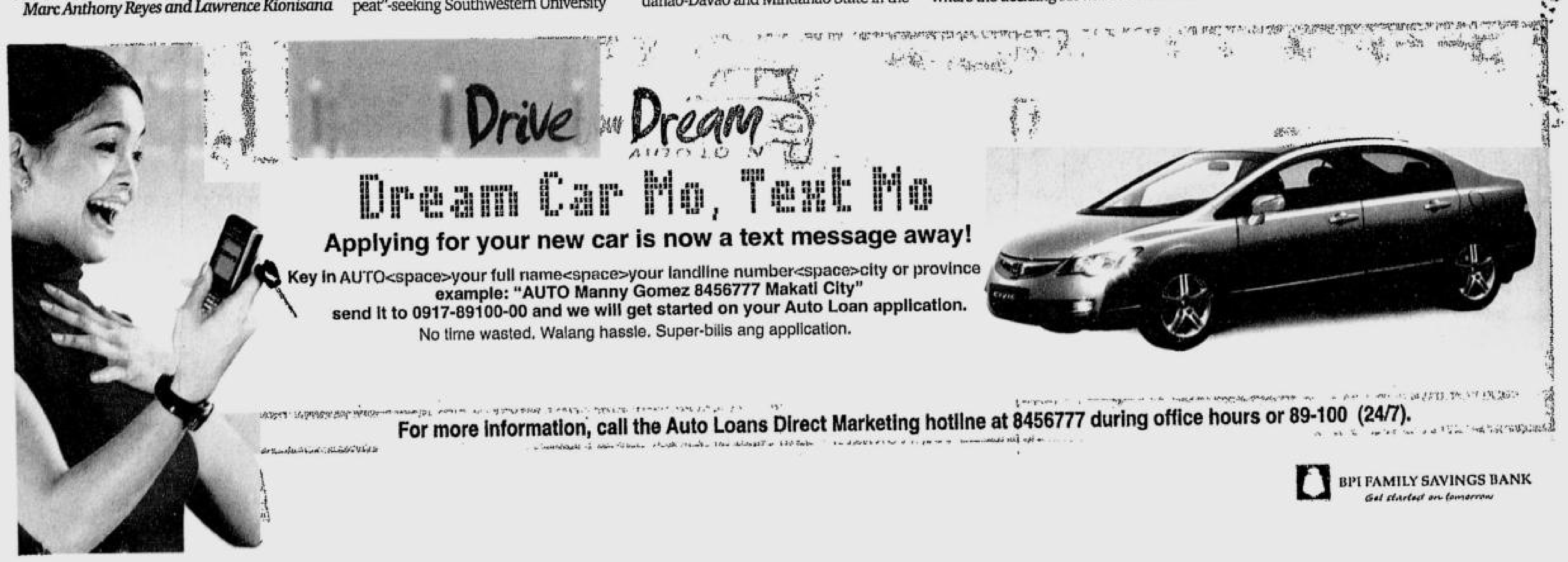
Mindanao has its hopes pinned on Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro, Ateneo de Davao, University of Mindanao-Davao and Mindanao State in the men's division, while University of Mindanao-Tagum, Holy Cross of Davao College, MSU and UMD carry the fight in the women's side.

This tournament has been a major part of Boracay's summer activities, the island practically standing still with heated action all day for the next three days.

After the groupings, action in the elimination round will be single round robin with the top four teams from each division advancing to the quarterfinals. Teams ranked fifth to 12th will then dispute the last four slots in the quarters ala Final Four where No. 1 tangles with No. 8, No. 2 vs. No. 7 and so on.

Elimination round games will be single set, race-to-25 before action shifts to best-of-three in the semis and the finals, where the deciding set will be race-to-15.

INTENSE action marked last year's tourney.



Drive your Dream
AUTO LOAN

Dream Car Mo, Text Mo

Applying for your new car is now a text message away!

Key in AUTO<space>your full name<space>your landline number<space>city or province
example: "AUTO Manny Gomez 8456777 Makati City"
send it to 0917-89100-00 and we will get started on your Auto Loan application.
No time wasted. Walang hassle. Super-bilis ang application.

For more information, call the Auto Loans Direct Marketing hotline at 8456777 during office hours or 89-100 (24/7).

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Get started on tomorrow

Suns still shine in Phoenix

Ginobili, Duncan kick Spurs bid back to life

LOS ANGELES—BORIS DIAW HAD A PLAYOFF career-high 25 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists and Steve Nash added 22 points as Phoenix coasted to a 114-97 win over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game Five of their opening-round series.

All-Star Shawn Marion scored 21 points and Tim Thomas contributed 13 off the bench for Phoenix, which shot 48 percent (42-of-86) from the field and improved to 2-0 when it scores at least 100 points.

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili and Tim Duncan could not wait to get back home and get back at the Sacramento Kings by posting a 109-98 win on Tuesday to take a 3-2 series lead.

Trailing the series, 3-2, the Suns will play Game Six in Los Angeles on Thursday and hope to return to Phoenix for Game Seven Saturday.

Leading, 58-51, one minute into the third period, Phoenix pulled away as Marion and Raja Bell hit back-to-back triples during a 17-5 surge.

The Suns built a 22-point edge, but Lakers star Kobe Bryant, who scored 29 points, capped an 11-2 burst with a 3-pointer to make it 86-73 with 10:17 remaining in the fourth period.

Trailing by 14 points with 7 1/2 minutes left, the Lakers got a little life when Bell received his second technical foul and was ejected for clothes-lining Bryant to the floor.

"It excites me more than anything," Bryant said of Bell's hard foul.

Los Angeles pulled within 95-85 on basket by Lamar Odom, but the Suns regrouped and built their edge back to 20 points behind a 13-0 run, which included back-to-back three-pointers by Leandro Barbosa and Marion.

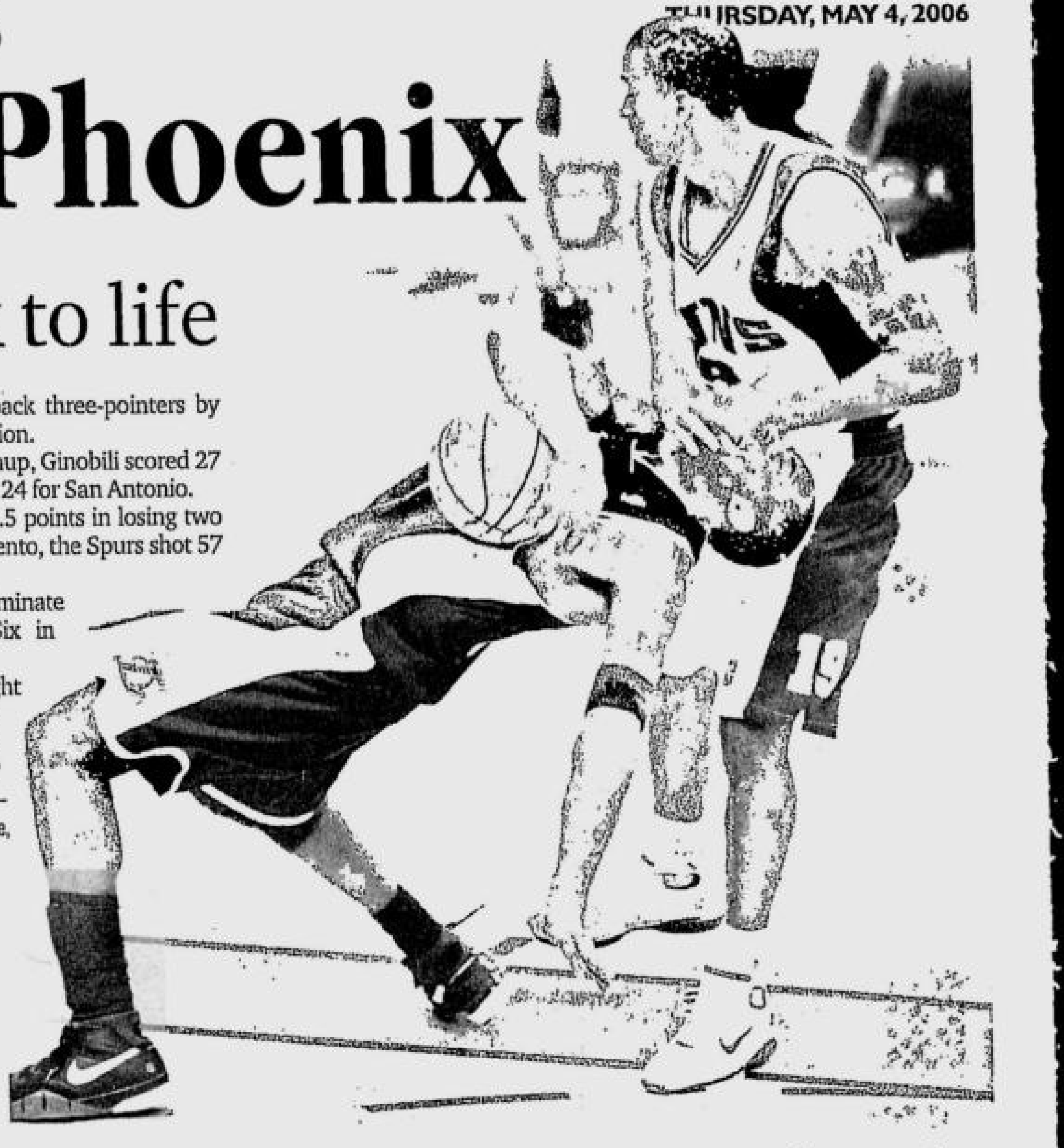
In the other West matchup, Ginobili scored 27 points and Duncan added 24 for San Antonio.

After averaging just 88.5 points in losing two straight games at Sacramento, the Spurs shot 57 percent from the floor.

San Antonio can eliminate Sacramento in Game Six in Sacramento on Friday.

Ginobili scored eight points in Game Three and just three in Game Four. *AFP*

NBA on SOLAR SPORTS—Milwaukee vs Detroit (6 a.m. live, 8 p.m. replay)



THINGS get too hot between the Suns' Raja Bell (right) and the Lakers' Kobe Bryant. Both players were ejected in the match, Bell right after this flagrant foul. AP

Heat, Nets grab 3-2 series leads

MIAMI—DWYANE WADE RETURNED from a nasty fall in heroic fashion to spark the Miami Heat to a critical 92-78 victory over the Chicago Bulls in game five of their first-round playoff series.

Antoine Walker contributed 17 points and Shaquille O'Neal 16 for Miami, which rebounded from road losses in the last two contests to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Heat can advance to the conference semifinals with a victory in Chicago on Thursday.

"We needed this win tonight," said O'Neal, who added 10 rebounds and three blocks. "We want to try and close them out on Thursday."

In the other Eastern Conference game, Vince Carter scored 34 points and grabbed 15 rebounds as the New Jersey Nets posted a 92-86 win over Indiana in Game Five of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

Miami appeared to be in serious trouble as it trailed, 55-50, with less than six minutes remaining in the third quarter.

Wade was out of the game with a bruised hip that he sustained late in the second quarter and O'Neal was saddled with four fouls.

CARTER: Another dominating performance. AFP

"I got a shot and I knew the medicine would kick in," Wade said. "I saw we were down by five and Shaq was hit with his fourth foul, and I said to the trainer that I was OK.

"I saw the opportunity at the timeout to get in there right away and try to contribute. He was working on me but I had to be out there."

Wade reentered the game with 5:50 left in the third period and promptly sparked the Heat on a 16-6 run over the next 10 minutes that totally changed the momentum of the game.

"Tonight we felt a little bit of pressure and once Dwyane went down, it was a shock," Heat coach Pat Riley said. "We all got stunned, but we were able to weather the storm not knowing what was going to happen to him. Strange things happen when you think things are at their worst."

In New Jersey, Richard Jefferson scored 24 points, Nenad Krstic added 19 and 11 rebounds and Jason Kidd dished out a postseason franchise-record 15 assists for New Jersey, which can advance to the conference semifinals with a win at Indiana in Thursday's Game Six.

After dropping two of the first three contests in this series, the Nets have bounced back with two straight victories largely due to Carter, who has poured in a total of 62 points in his last two outings. *AFP*

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC., Victorias City, Negros Occidental wishes to invite interested bidders/contractors to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply of labor, consumable materials, tools, equipment, supervision and technical expertise, test and inspection and complete commissioning of the **Factory Compressed Air Lines Renovation/Rehabilitation to Closed Loop System** based on Scope of Work and Supply covered by JR No. 29403A dated March 25, 2006 under CAPEX No. BRM 01-20-06 D. **THIS IS A TURNKEY PROJECT**.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

1. Compressed Air Line Closed Loop System
2. Installation of new piping for compressed air system, installation of new ancillaries and components for air filters at every loop
3. Installation of series of filters and components at the point of use in conformity with ISO 8573.1 standard and Good Engineering Practice Guide 216

Interested bidders must submit the following pre-qualification requirements:

- Letter of intent with Interest to Bid
- VMC Accreditation papers for those who are not yet accredited
- Registered and in good standing with SEC or DTI
- Certificate of Registration with BIR
- Certificate of Membership with SSS, Philhealth, HDMF, Pag-ibig, etc.
- Certificate from Department of Labor and Employment
- Has a good track record and satisfactory performance as attested to by at least three (3) clients
- Latest audited Financial Statements stamped by BIR and certified by a Certified Public Accountant

Bidding kits are available at the MCD Office and at Makati Office on **May 6 to May 11, 2006**, after payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00. Kindly submit the needed requirements on or before **May 18, 2006** to qualify to bid. The pre-bidding conference will be held on **May 24, 2006**, at the VMC HRD Training Center at **2:30 P.M.** The commercial bidding will be announced thereafter.

For further inquiries, please contact **Messrs. Carlos S. Quiatchon or Dan C. Labrador** at VMC Millsite at telephone numbers **(034) 399-3696 to 97** and (local) **2351 or 2309**, and **Mr. Ernesto "Toto" Oligo** at VMC Makati Office at telephone numbers **(02)899-0485** and **(02)890-7061**. Also visit our website www.victoriasmilling.com and e-mail us at mcd@victoriasmilling.com.

Victorias Milling Company, Inc., reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company. The Company assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder/s for any expense/s or loss that they may incur in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI–May 4, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM CORPORATE OFFICE
4th Floor, Administration Building, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105 Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63(+2) 922-3757; 922-2969 Fax No. +63(+2) 921-2887

INVITATION TO BID

(Re-bidding)

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), will conduct a public bidding for the per kilo/lot sale and disposal of the following surplus materials and various unserviceable equipment and furniture, on an "as is-where is basis", located at the San Juan Stockyard, San Juan, Metro Manila and at the MWSS Property Management Storage, Balara, Quezon City. These materials are composed of the following:

Item No.	Materials Description	Location	Approximate Quantity	MWSS Base Price
1.	Surplus project materials composed of different kinds of pipes and fittings	San Juan Stockyard, San Juan, M.M.	2,000,000 kilos	P12.00/kilo
2.	Heavy/Solid Metal	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	15,000 kilos	P10.83/kilo
3.	Tin Sheet Scrap Metal (Yero)	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	2,000 kilos	P7.16/kilo
4.	Scrap Kitchen Fixtures, Stainless	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	500 kilos	P63.66/kilo
5.	Aluminum Metal	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	500 kilos	P61.66/kilo
6.	Scrap Brass (Tansong Dilaw)	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	7,500 kilos	P104.66/kilo
7.	Unserviceable Computers, Printers, Xerox Machines, Electronic Communication Equipment and Accessories	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	1,580 kilos	P8.00/kilo
8.	Scrap/Waste Assorted Papers	MWSS Complex Balara, Q.C.	5,000 kilos	P2.00/kilo
9.	White Scrap Papers (obsolete continues form, 5 ply 14" x 9½")	MWSS Complex Balara, Q.C.	1 lot	P88,931.06 (1 lot)
10.	Office Desks, Tables, Cabinets, and other Wooden Furnitures	MWSS Complex Balara, Q.C.	1 lot	P15,000.00 (1 lot)
11.	THW Electrical Cable & PVC Insulation	MWSS Complex, Balara, Q.C.	386 kilos	P176.30/kilo

Interested parties may secure the Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Bid Form from the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), located at the address below, upon payment of non-refundable amount of Php1,000.00, starting May 02 until May 12, 2006:

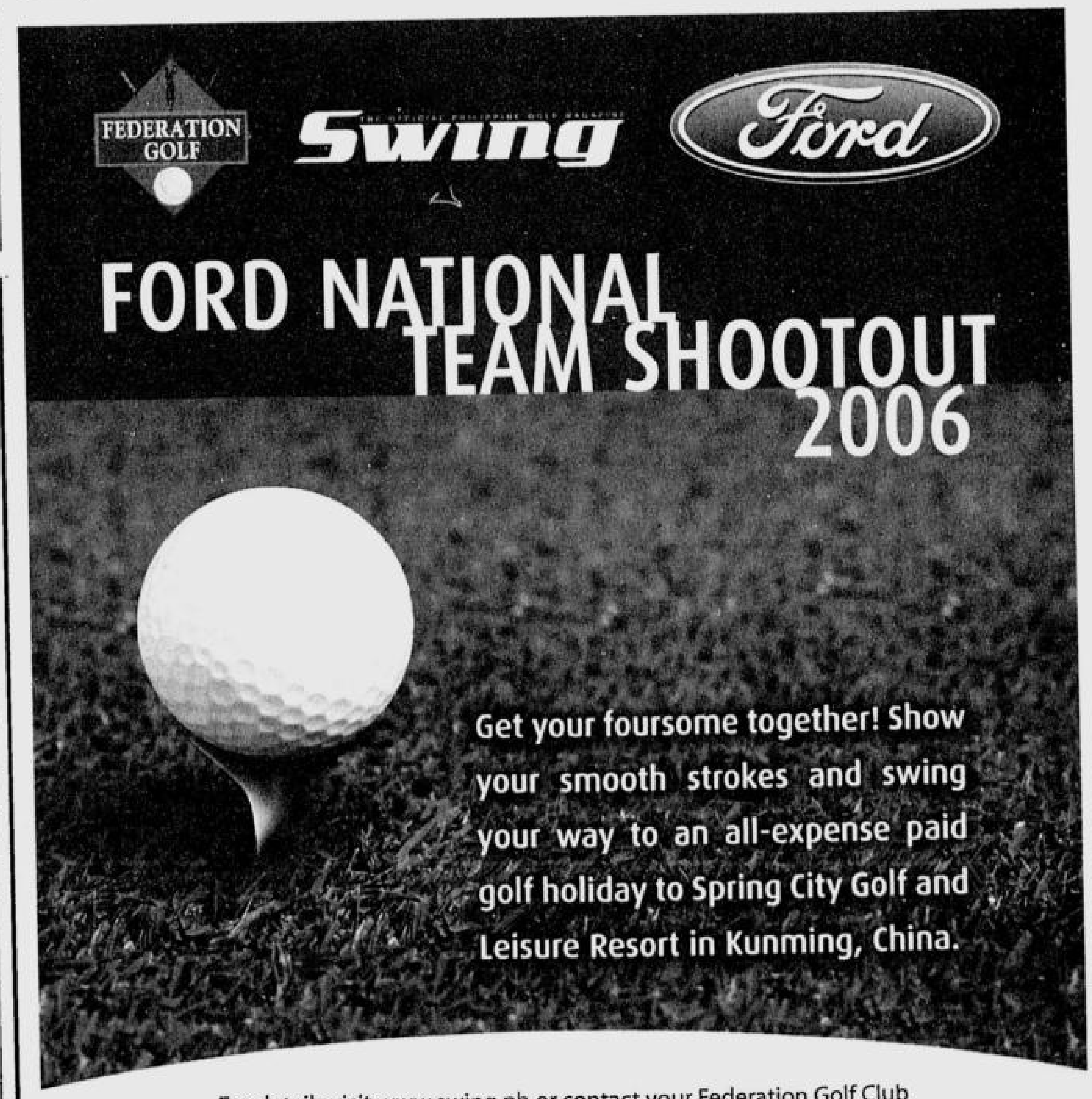
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Engineering & Project Management Department
Ground Floor, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telefax: 929-6966 / 922-2568

The bids must be submitted to the BAC in sealed envelope, one (1) original and two (2) duplicate copies, on or before **2:00 p.m. of May 24, 2006**. The bundy clock located at the above address shall serve as the basis for the official time for this bidding. Bids received after the above deadline shall no longer be accepted. The bids will be opened by the BAC at 2:15 p.m. on the same date in the presence of and the bidders, or their duly authorized representatives, and the general public.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the above address, at **10:00 a.m.** on **May 17, 2006**, and thereafter a joint site inspection will follow.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - April 27 & May 4 2006)



FEDERATION GOLF
Swing
THE OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE GOLF MAGAZINE
Ford

FORD NATIONAL TEAM SHOOTOUT 2006

Get your foursome together! Show your smooth strokes and swing your way to an all-expense paid golf holiday to Spring City Golf and Leisure Resort in Kunming, China.

For details visit www.swing.ph or contact your Federation Golf Club

Pharmaton Mizuno citibank hp Hypoallergenics Rudy Project St. Francis SEAIR adidas Asian Spirit osim BOSCH Invented for life GOLFPRO Raymundo's sportsplus Solar Sports inq7.net Philippine Daily Inquirer hip

Satellite Elimination:
May 5, 2006 (VisMin) - Cebu Golf & Country Club
May 5, 2006 (Luzon West) - Orchard Golf & Country Club
May 11, 2006 (Luzon North) - Luisita Golf & Country Club
May 12, 2006 (Luzon South) - Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club
May 13, 2006 (Luzon East) - Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club

Grand Finals
- May 25 - Orchard Golf & Country Club
- May 26 - Sta. Elena Golf Club & Country Club

Cebu hosts Ford Vis/Min Shootout Satellite tourney

LUIS AND ROBERTO COSCUELLA, RENE SILOS AND Alex Mirano combined for a net score of 58 to rule the Negros Occidental Golf Club eliminations for the Ford National Team Shootout recently.

Over at Iloilo Golf Club, the foursome of Frankie Locsin, Tony Rosado, Roger Rosales and William Gella emerged the top qualifier with a net score of 59.

The two champion foursomes and the four squads that finished behind them advance to the Visayas/Mindanao Satellite finals along with other qualifiers from Pueblo de Oro Golf & Country Club, Alta Vista Golf Club, Fairways & Bluewater Golf and Country Club and Cebu Country Club.

The Visayas/Mindanao Satellite finals is scheduled tomorrow at the Cebu Country Club.

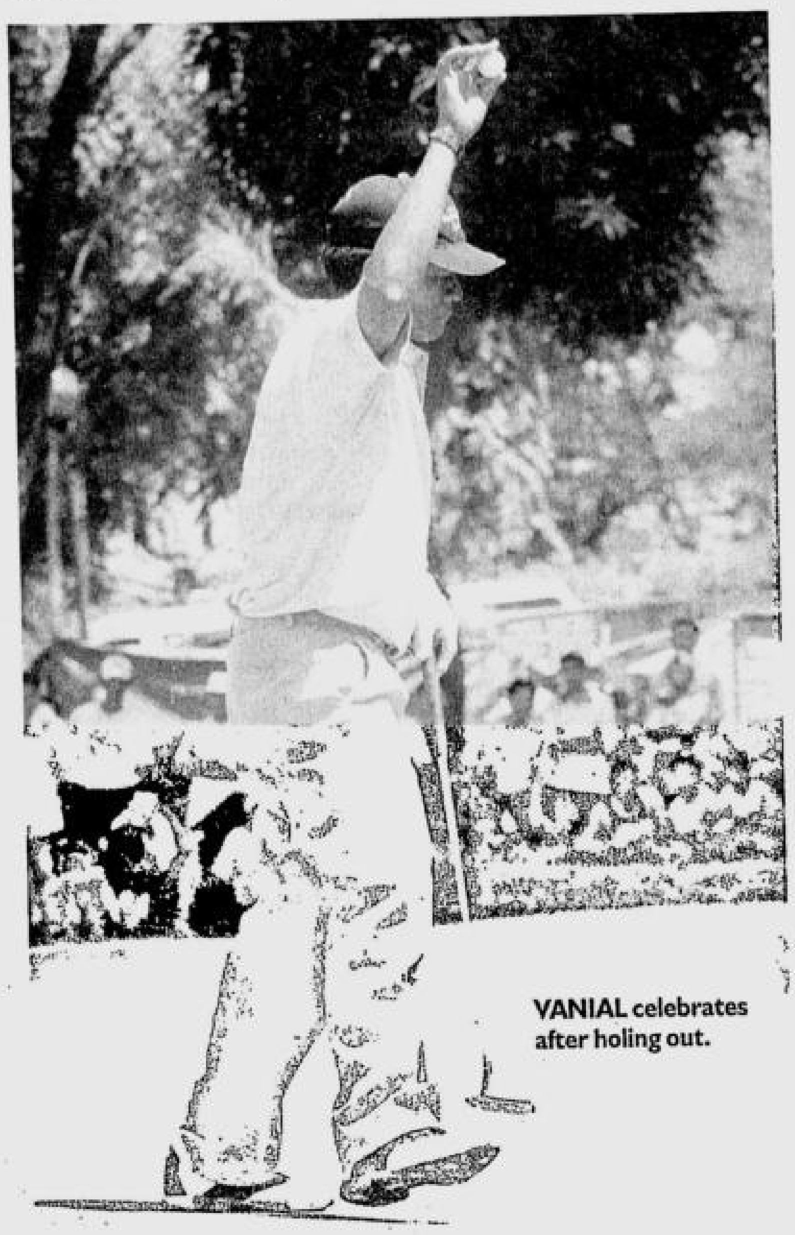
The other qualifiers from NOGC were June Bantug, Al Picardal, Tonichi Lopez and Anthony Ramos (net 59), Jimmy and Ramon Yusay, Luigi Benedicto, and Joe Mari Limjap (60), Leo and Vicente Gustillo Jr., Roberto Soliven and Daniel Gonzaga (60), Epifanio Torre, Ramon Benedicto, Juan Carlos Torre and JR Tanpinco (61).

Completing the Iloilo qualifying cast were Butch Jamerlan, Josel Naranjo, Edwin Delicana and Telius Ha (net 59), Dodo Cua, Peewee Aguirre, Ramil Cortez and Ian Rosales (60), Tim Parker, Pepe Isada, Maggie and Mark Rivera (61), Ed Yee, Steve Jardeleza, Johnny Young and Edmund Larroza (61).

The top three teams from the Satellite Finals will compete in the Grand Finals on May 25 and 26 at Orchard Golf and Country Club and Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club along with their counterparts from Luzon.

The winning foursome will be entitled to an all-expenses paid golf vacation to Spring City Resort in Kunming, China.

The Ford National Team Shootout is presented by Ford Group Philippines, Swing Magazine, and the Federation of Golf Club Phils. Inc. (FedGolf)—the country's largest organization of private golf clubs. For more details, call the FedGolf office at (02) 840-3951 or visit www.swing.ph.



VANIAL celebrates after holing out.

Longshot VGC pro Vanial tops RP Open qualifying

CLUB PRO VIC VANIAL SHOT A SECOND STRAIGHT 3-OVER-PAR 75 yesterday to top the Philippine Open qualifier even as four amateurs made the grade at the close of the 36-hole tournament at Villamor Golf Club.

Vanial, in fourth spot at the start of the round, dropped three strokes on the first five holes but played steadily from there to salvage a 39-36 card.

With a 150 aggregate, Vanial towed nine others into the Philippine Open slated May 25-28 at Wack Wack where 27 other Filipino pros plus four members of the national pool and two sponsors' invitees of the National Golf Association of the Philippines have been seeded.

Veteran Ernie Rellon carded a 76 to place second at 151 while Edwin Estrera shot a 75 and finished in joint third at 152 with Jun Cedo, who fumbled with a 78.

Other 152 scorers were amateurs Jun Bernis, the former national amateur and DHL Amateur Open champion, and Gary Sales, who had a 76 and 78, respectively.

Another amateur, Anthony Fernando, who with Sales upstaged the pros in the first round with 73s, limped home with an 80 but still gained an RP Open with a 153, a stroke better than the cutoff score of 154.

The RP pool mainstays in the Open are Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron, Michael Bibat and Tonton Asistio while the NGAP sponsors' invitees are Gene Bondoc and pro Ibarra Quiatchon from Mindanao.

Godofredo Sinfuego sizzled with a 2-under par 70 and made the biggest surge by battling back from 30th place to snatch a share of 10th spot with Ronald Posada (79) and amateur Hanson So Jr. (79) with 154s.

Meanwhile, the NGAP announced that the RP Open entry fee for all non-Asian Tour members is pegged at $70 or P3,650. For registration, contact NGAP at 525-6987 or 524-5160, email ngapgolf@hotmail.com.

Spring Oil cagers gain PICAA finals

DEFENDING CHAMPION SPRING Cooking Oil needed one big scoring spurt in the third quarter to beat Homer's Cagers, 100-89, and clinch the first finals berth in the 2005 PICAA Open basketball tournament Tuesday at the EAC gym in Manila.

Led by Aldrin Morante, the Cooking Oil Masters of national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and coach Efren "Yong" Garcia ripped the contest wide open in the third by outscoring Homer's 27-17.

It was the seventh straight win for the Cooking Oil Masters in the tourney supported by Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna, Chloe Lightings and Tomish Café (Dapitan).

Morante topscored for Spring with 18 points while Patrick Tiongco added 15. Veteran Niño Marquez paced Homer's with 21.

In the other game, King's Bakeshop subdued UP-Mighty Filter Kings, 73-67, in overtime to gain at least a tie for the second finals seat.

The top two teams after the double-round elimination will dispute the title in a winner-take-all game.

The scores:

Spring 100—Morante 18, Tiongco 15, De Castro 14, Yee 10, Reyes 9, Manuel 8, Bamson 6, Capobres 5, Cuenca 5, Soriano 4, Neo 3, Yambao 1.

Homer's Cagers 89—Marquez 21, Legarde 17, Conmigo 16, Moody 8, Baltazar 8, Diaz 8, Rodriguez 5, Pingol 3, De Leon 3.

Quarters: 20-20, 52-47, 79-64, 100-89.

GenSan-Misamis semis series on

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—SECond seed PacMan-GenSan and third seed Pryce Pharma-MisOr begin their best-of-three Mindanao Division semifinal series today in the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference at the Lagao Gym.

Gametime is 5:30 p.m.

The PacMan squad of boxing hero Manny Pacquiao won five of its eight elimination games, including twice over Pryce Pharma of MVBA chair Gov. Oscar Moreno—86-78 on Feb. 26 and 73-68 on March 24.

Pryce Pharma started slow but closed out the eliminations with a three-game win streak for an even 4-4 win-loss card in the tournament backed by ML Kwarta Padala, Cokaliong Shipping Lines, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Molten, Panasonic and Sulpicio Lines.

The series shifts to the Xavier University Gym in Cagayan de Oro City for Game Two on May 7.

Montaña Pawnshop-Davao leads the other semifinal series, 1-0, after stunning top seed Iligan City, 87-69, at the MSU-IIT Gym last April 30.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Ikaw Lamang (5), Shy Girl (3), Diamond Sky (6), Society Climber (4)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Jagger (4), Kai Maki/Prince Richard (2), Ali Ali Ali (7), Sharp Cookie (1), Fontana De Trevi (9)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Aryaam (6), Penny Wise (4), Tout Est Grace (5), Summer Gear (2)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Rock Attack Attack (9), Angel Eyes (4), Blue Bolero (5), Secret Angel (2), Desert Breeze (7)

Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Cognac Monnet (8), Ops (6), Lady Boomer (3), Tango With Me (5)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Habagat (5), Fastteller (1), Kawiliwili (3), Jayvie's Godfather (7)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Expiditer (4), Power Dance (6), Ole! Ole! Ole! (2), War Hero (3)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—St. Jek Jek (10), American Idol/Trouble Master (2), Reign Of Roses (1), Silver Eagle (8), Batang Bukid (4), Fair Urduja (3)

SPORTSWATCH

Delada gets crack at WBC int'l title

PHILIPPINE NO. 2 LIGHTWEIGHT DEXTER DELADA WILL SEEK THE VACANT WBC International lightweight title on May 27 against Ali Funeka in East London, South Africa. Delada's manager Rex "Wakee" Salud said the fighter clinched the title crack due to his good fight record of 14-2 with 10 KOs. Delada had vied for the Philippine lightweight title, but was stopped by champ Fernando Montilla last November in the fourth round. Funeka, a right-handed banger ranked WBC No. 20, is a strong puncher with only one loss in 27-fights. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

RP junior Cuppers nip HK

KUCHING, MALAYSIA—PABLO OLIVAREZ AND JOHN FRANCIS LAGO COMBINED for a doubles victory as the sixth seeded Philippines bested Hong Kong, 2-1, Wednesday at the start of the BNP Paribas Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania qualifying tournament at the Sarawak Lawn Tennis Association courts. Olivarez made up for his 3-6, 3-6 defeat in the second singles by scoring on well-placed shots while Largo, playing in his first international tournament, worked behind a solid forehand as they whipped the tandem of Ryan Cheung and Darren Ng, 6-0, 6-4. Joshua Hansel Ho, a veteran of the 2005 World Juniors Championships, gave the Philippines a 1-0 lead with a 6-7 (3), 7-5, 6-4 victory over the US-born Cheung in the first singles.

Princesa, Pison rule duckpin tilt

TWO-TIME PSA AWARDEE REMY PRINCESA OF D'FRIENDLY BOWLERS RALlied to cop the women's Master crown in the 31st Grand and 13th National Youth duckpin bowling championships held at the Marketplace in Mandaluyong City. Princesa, Philippine Duckpin Bowling Council auditor and Bureau of Customs assessment division employee, rallied in the final three games of the new 8-game Masters format to score 927 pins. Ben Pison of Bacolod City did his boss and teammate Jaime Chua of Feast Truck proud by ruling the men's Masters competition with 1030 pins.

Makati Salpukan resumes today

THE HUNT FOR THE EYE-POPPING PRIZE OF P4.4 MILLION CONTINUES IN Makati Coliseum's Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby which enters its fourth round today. Some 75 fights are on tap beginning at 5 p.m. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. announced that the last day to join this derby is on Saturday. Entries must be submitted tomorrow, from 2-9 p.m. Entry fee is P11, 000. Three more provincial cockers posted perfect scores of three points last Tuesday: Sam Mendoza of Rizal (Sam High Fashion), Francis Rodriguez of Bulacan (San Rafael LNF Farms) and Alex Calderon (ME Tama Ka).

27 entries lead Roligon Tukaan

ANOTHER HUGE CROWD IS EXPECTED AT THE 15,000-SEAT AND NEWLY RENOvated Roligon Mega Cockpit today as the Tukaan 5-cock derby sizzles at 5 p.m. with the third day of eliminations. Twelve more participants tallied two wins each Tuesday night, bringing to 27 the number of qualifiers with perfect scores. With two wins each are Ogie Patinio (Urban), Cesar Marquez (Katipunan), Engr. Parungao (Cabiao NE), Bebot Zaldy (Hataw Sige Hataw), Louie Du (M38 Cica), Leo Allangan (Baguio Beans), Erwin Diamante (Tuntungin LB), E. Javier (JDS), Raul Ebeo (Reb Maningning), Jesry Palmares (Blue Triangle), Tony Sy (Sly Ray) and Rey Soriano (RCS Mat and Tim).

Villarino shines in archery

A 6-YEAR-OLD INCOMING CLARET SCHOOL PREP STUDENT-FRANZ MIKHAEL Villarino-stole the show in the recent archery age group level tournament by winning the gold medal with a score of 108 points at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Villarino, who began training only two months ago, beat R-Vee Zotomayor by four points and Gabby Moreno by six in the youngest bracket of the event organized by the National Archery Association of the Philippines. A total of 58 age-groupers saw action, according to NAAP president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner. Janet Bermas of Makiling and Juan Pablo Zaragosa of TAC-AC ruled the high school-college level. Bermas tallied 108 to topple Bongabon's Marilyn Osias (94) and TAC-AC's Marie Cabral (93).

GOLD medalist Franz Mikhael Villarino (center) displays his form, together with Gabby Moreno (left) and R-Vee Zotomayor.

Momentum vs memento

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE LAKERS BLEW THEIR FIRST CHANCE TO eliminate the Suns yesterday.

No, I'm sorry.

It was the other way around.

The Suns, speeding again with their MVP at the wheels, Steve "Speed" Nash, blew the Lakers out of the US Airways Center in Phoenix by atoning for the one mortal sin they committed in the last three games—score below 100.

No, the victory did not oust the Lakers. The Suns need two more of that to advance; the Lakers need one. Just one. If you ask Jack Nicholson, that could come within the next 96 hours, or even earlier.

Phoenix scored below 100 in losing its last three games, one in Phoenix and two in Los Angeles. But yesterday, the Suns were surely back on the horizon in the NBA playoffs' first round.

As if in deep slumber, the stunned Suns woke up, rediscovered themselves and regained their scoring title to bomb the Lakers with a 114-97 victory and narrowed the Lakers' lead to 3-2.

The game wasn't only extremely physical, it also sent shivers down the spine of coach Phil Jackson, who wanted his Lakers to play desperate but did not.

"That's what happens when teams play with some desperation," said Jackson. "They (the Suns) were active and aggressive and beat us with the nature of their play."

The Suns, natural runners and gunners, drew double figures from six men. Boris Diaw led scoring with 25, Nash had 22 and Shawn Marion 21.

Suddenly, the Suns reinvented their Game 1 victory when they scored 107 against the Lakers' 102.

The referees threw out the Suns' shot artist Raja Bell on a headlock foul that floored Kobe Bryant with 7:33 left in the fourth.

But rather than fold, the Suns erupted with an 8-0 blast to pad their lead to 18 down the stretch, making Game 6 on Friday (Thursday in L.A.) a battle between a team with unassailable momentum and a team with a bad memento.

Definitely, the Suns, with new-found strength and a new lease on life, will be more than inspired gunning for the equalizer tomorrow against the Lakers, who will be hounded by a sexual assault charge labeled on Kwame Brown last weekend.

The game wasn't only physical, it was also "verbal."

With 3:11 to play, Bryant, saddled with one technical in an earlier skirmish with Bell, also got himself ejected after arguing a referee's call in a play that did not involve him but Brown, the lumbering giant with corn cobs for a hairdo.

The sexual assault case police are investigating in Los Angeles has somewhat gotten into the nerve of Jackson.

"We will not talk about it," Jackson said of the case before yesterday's game. "As a basketball team, we're going to focus on what we need to do. I did say something to Kwame. We have three priorities: Basketball, basketball, and family."

The Brown case showed its ill effects yesterday.

Brown played only 24 minutes, 10 below his series average, and was foul-plagued, getting 3 fouls 11 minutes into the first quarter. Although he made all 6 of his shots, he played mostly tentative and had only 3 rebounds.

Leaks incessantly hit the Los Angeles game, the Lakers always caught napping when Nash made incursions. Smush Parker was 1-of-7 for five points, completely a far cry from his heroics in Game 4 where his defense produced game-winning steals for the Lakers.

They seemed not ready to play yesterday. Lakers' turnovers: 18.

"We need to calm down," said Luke Walton, whose jump ball with Nash with 6.1 seconds left in Game 4's overtime fueled Bryant's 17-foot game-winner at the buzzer.

Calm down they must. One win in two games isn't a tall order.

It is still Phoenix that's on the edge. To complete its rise from the ashes of its 3-1 ruins, it needs to sweep the last two games.

That, I must say, is a peak called Mt. Everest.

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Macaya, Tojino take top honors in Riviera Invt'l; 2 score aces

BIBLY MACAYA AND LARRY TOJINO BUCKED THE tough playing conditions with 119 points to bag the overall crown in the eighth Riviera Golf Club Invitational member-guest tournament recently in Silang, Cavite.

The low-handicappers from the Class A division came to fore as Manuel Valdez and his guest partner Stewart Go settled for the division title after losing to Macaya and Tojino by just a point for the top award.

Raymund Sangil picked up another low gross award, this time teaming up with Venjo Reyes for 98 points.

Romy Ignacio and Junie Fontanilla emerged the Class B champions and the pair of Alfredo Hilario-Monette Mata bagged the Class C plum.

Two aces were recorded, the first on Day 1 on his very first hole—the 17th of Couples—by Romy Fabregas, and the second on Day 4—the 17th of Langer—by Reineiro Esmaquel. They shared a Ford Focus put up by Ford Alabang and each won a trip to the US via Asiana Airlines.

Bonifacio Pimentel didn't need a lucky shot to win the other Ford Focus. His name was picked as the winner of the car in the grand raffle that capped the four-day competitions which had Smart Communications as presentor. Mizuno, Pagcor, PacSports, Teriyaki Boy, Coca Cola and Citimotors were the other sponsors.

Ignacio and Fontanilla scored 115 to win by two over Stephen Tan-Fred Garcia with Florian Concepcion-Quino Baterna placing third at 109.

The results:

Overall champion—119 Bibly Macaya-Larry Tojino; Low Gross: 98 Raymund Sangil-Venjo Reyes

Class A—118 Manuel Valdez-Stewart Go, 113 Hiroyuki Utsumi-Kionoshita Tomiharu, 112 Ding Kalinga-Reynaldo Aguilera

Class B—115 Romy Ignacio-Junie Fontanilla, 113 Stephen Tan-Fred Garcia, 109 Florian Concepcion-Quino Baterna

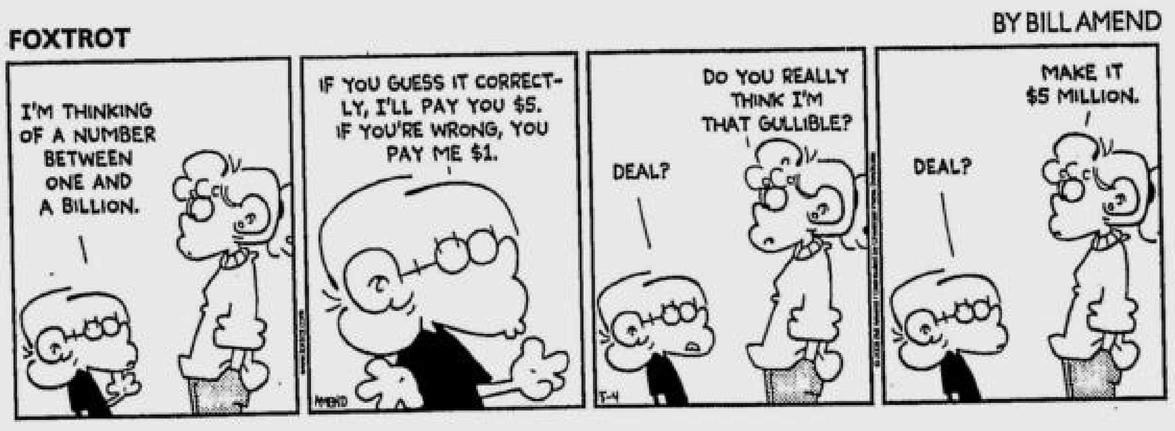
Class C—116 Alfredo Hilario-Monette Mata, 114 Pedro Garcia-Jimmy Borromeo, 113 Ramog Garcia-Boy Favis

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

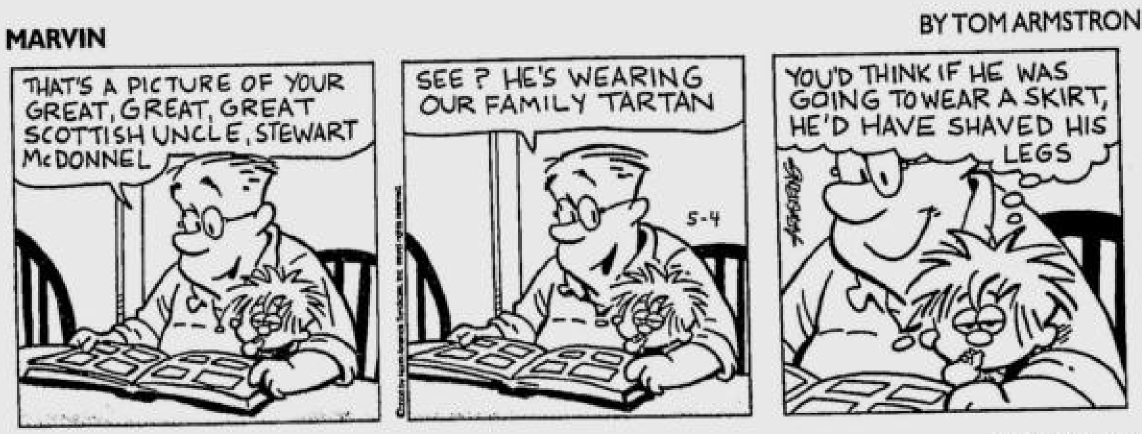
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I'M THINKING OF A NUMBER BETWEEN ONE AND A BILLION.
IF YOU GUESS IT CORRECTLY, I'LL PAY YOU $5. IF YOU'RE WRONG, YOU PAY ME $1.
DEAL?
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M THAT GULLIBLE?
DEAL?
MAKE IT $5 MILLION.
AMEND
5-4

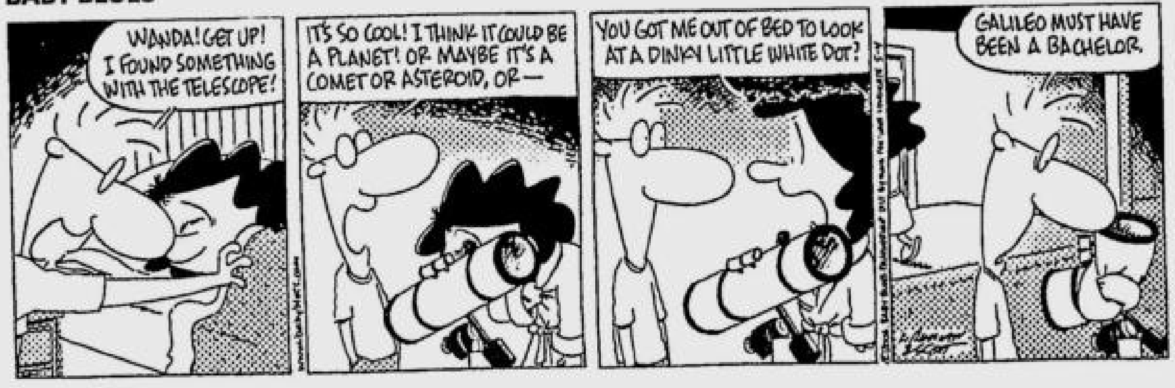
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THAT'S A PICTURE OF YOUR GREAT, GREAT, GREAT SCOTTISH UNCLE, STEWART McDONNEL
SEE? HE'S WEARING OUR FAMILY TARTAN
5-4
YOU'D THINK IF HE WAS GOING TO WEAR A SKIRT, HE'D HAVE SHAVED HIS LEGS

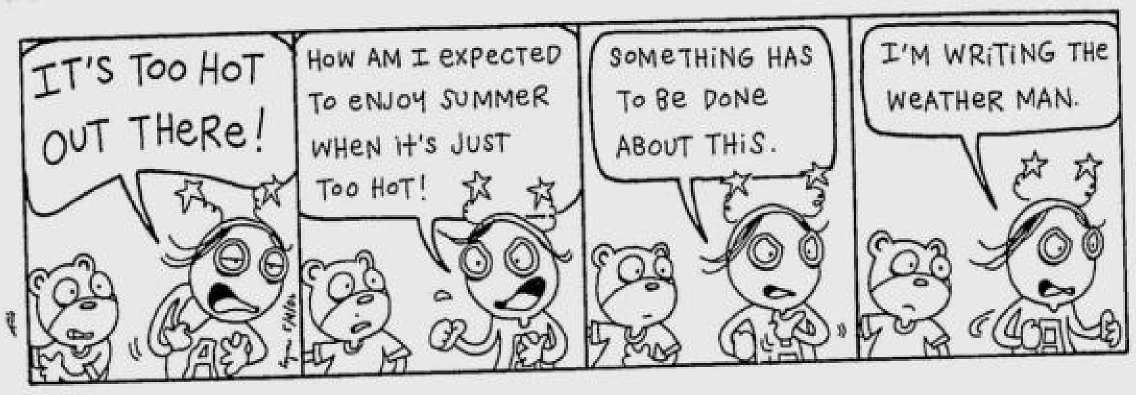
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA! GET UP! I FOUND SOMETHING WITH THE TELESCOPE!
IT'S SO COOL! I THINK IT COULD BE A PLANET! OR MAYBE IT'S A COMET OR ASTEROID, OR—
YOU GOT ME OUT OF BED TO LOOK AT A DINKY LITTLE WHITE DOT?
GALILEO MUST HAVE BEEN A BACHELOR.

ATOMO AND WÈBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


IT'S TOO HOT OUT THERE!
HOW AM I EXPECTED TO ENJOY SUMMER WHEN IT'S JUST TOO HOT!
SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS.
I'M WRITING THE WEATHER MAN.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a wonderful combination of practicality, sensitivity and warm charm. You're hardworking and ambitious. Others see you as conscientious and reliable. You're quick to understand who others are. Marriage, partnership and a settled home are important. At the age of 17, you become far more curious about life. This year could be one of the best years of you have ever had!

Birthdate of: Audrey Hepburn, actress; Ana Gasteyer, actress; Randy Travis, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In plain and simple terms, this can be a very lucky day for you. People will give you gifts, favors, inheritances, money or help you in some way. Bonus!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might meet somebody wonderful today. New relationships that begin now will be joyful and exciting. They will be friendships that expand your world. Yay!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a great day at work for you. It's a marvelous day to start a new job. Co-workers are helpful and supportive. Pleasant surprises await you. Good news about your health might please you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Exciting flirtations and new romance could knock you off your feet (eyes across a crowded room and all that). This is a wonderful day for parties and creative activities. Enjoy!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Enjoy entertaining at home today. All real estate deals can be very profitable today. Buy something for home and family.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of optimistic enthusiasm. Life is good. Expect to meet new people who surprise you in some way. On the whole, this is the day full of pleasant surprises.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a wonderful day for business and commerce. There's money in them thar hills. You might enjoy shopping as well. Put your money to good use.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an extremely fortunate day for your sign. All kinds of unexpected beneficial opportunities can come to you. Be open to meeting anyone! Stay positive and friendly.

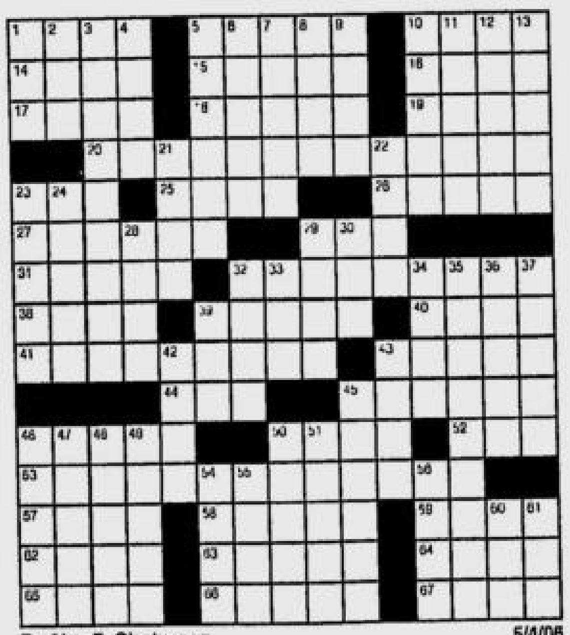
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Opportunities abound for you today. Your ruler, Jupiter, is zapped by unpredictable Uranus. This means anything can happen—and it will happen fast!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Friends surprise you today. By all means, accept all invitations. This is a great day to join a class or join a group. Conversations with others are invigorating!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can really make a wonderful impression on others today. Bosses might give you a raise—certainly praise. Look your best. Expect a miracle.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Sudden opportunities for education or travel could come your way now. Your window of opportunity is small—act quickly. Be ready to jump when something presents itself. This applies to publishing and educational opportunities as well.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

5/4/06

ACROSS
1 Pound to pulp
5 Felony
10 Length times width
14 Sacramento's arena
15 Aden's country
16 Tear to pieces
17 Canyon comeback
18 Product name
19 Church section
20 Start of Evan Esar quip
23 Is able to
25 Sea eagles
26 Map dot
27 Doing sums
29 Poetic contraction
31 Farm outbuildings
32 Part 2 of quip
38 New driver, usually
39 Cloud nine
40 Norway's patron saint
41 Part 3 of quip
43 Nigerian currency unit
44 Hole maker
45 Rang a big bell?
46 Closet material
50 Look over
52 Opp. of SSW
53 End of quip
57 Spoils
58 Taken __ (surprised)
59 Finest
62 Aware of
63 Cranny
64 Enthralled with
65 Mt. Holyoke's founder
66 Interrogated
67 Bedazzle

DOWN
1 Actress West
2 Circle part
3 Subject of a Spielberg film
4 Flicka's foot
5 Bionic Woman, e.g.
6 Second showing
7 Mosque prayer leaders
8 Bill of fare
9 Breaks off
10 Saudis and Omanis
11 Drive back
12 Follow logically
13 Skillful
21 Cravings
22 Wee
23 Throws
24 Farewell in Rouen
28 Actress Skye
29 Scottish Gaelic
30 '94 and '97 U.S. Open winner
32 Hebrew month
33 Missing from a vacuum
34 Mournful sound
35 Proper relative position
36 Actress Black
37 Keep clear of
39 Show obeisance
42 Unit of length
43 Childhood prohibition
45 Stared stupidly
46 Channing or Burnett
47 Jet black
48 Same again
49 Fiery felony
50 Pancake order
51 Secret storage place
54 Wendy's dog
55 Sapporo sashes
56 Bagwell stats
60 R-V hookup
61 Very great weight

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

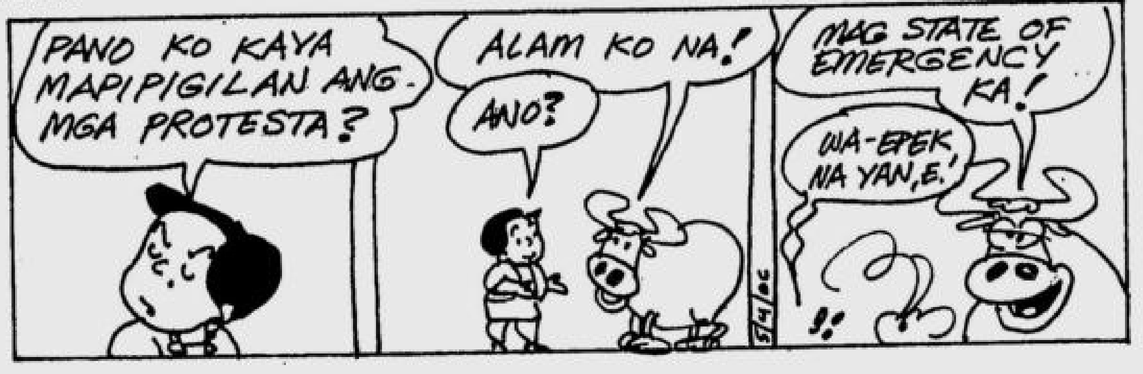
S	P	E	E	D	■	H	A	S	P	■	P	O	M	P
R	E	T	R	O	■	E	S	A	I	■	A	D	A	R
S	L	A	N	G	■	F	I	L	L	■	R	I	S	E
■	F	L	I	G	H	T	S	O	F	F	A	N	C	Y
■	■	■	E	E	E	■	■	N	E	R	D	■	■	■
D	A	N	■	R	A	N	G	■	R	A	I	D	E	R
U	P	I	■	E	V	E	R	S	■	■	S	E	L	A
C	A	S	T	L	E	S	I	N	T	H	E	A	I	R
T	R	E	E	■	■	S	P	I	R	O	■	T	S	E
S	T	I	L	T	S	■	E	T	E	S	■	H	E	R
■	■	■	E	R	L	E	■	■	A	P	T	■	■	■
L	O	F	T	Y	A	M	B	I	T	I	O	N	S	■
O	P	A	H	■	L	O	U	D	■	T	R	A	P	S
P	A	L	O	■	O	T	T	O	■	A	R	T	I	E
E	L	A	N	■	M	E	T	S	■	L	E	O	N	E

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

5/4/06

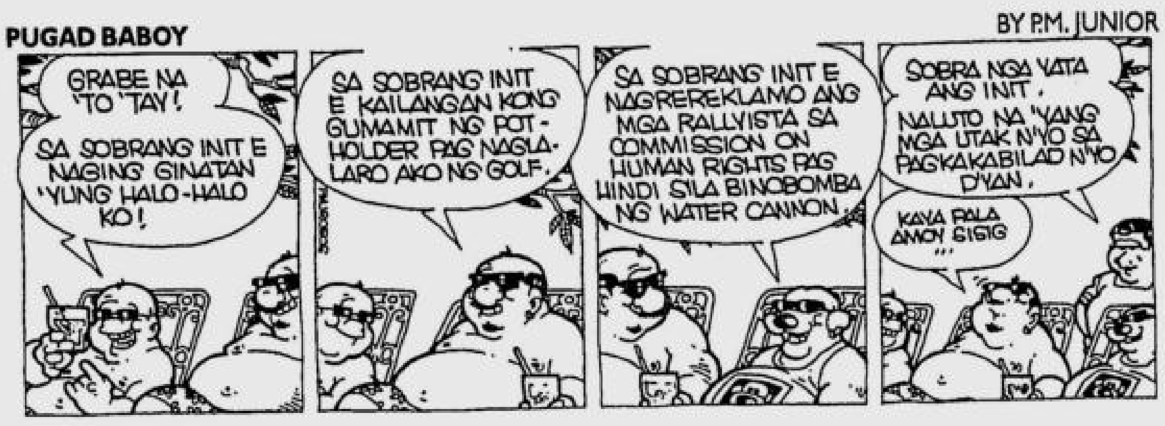
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PANO KO KAYA MAPIPIGILAN ANG MGA PROTESTA?
ALAM KO NA!
ANO?
MAG STATE OF EMERGENCY KA!
WA-EPEK NA YAN, E.
5/4/06

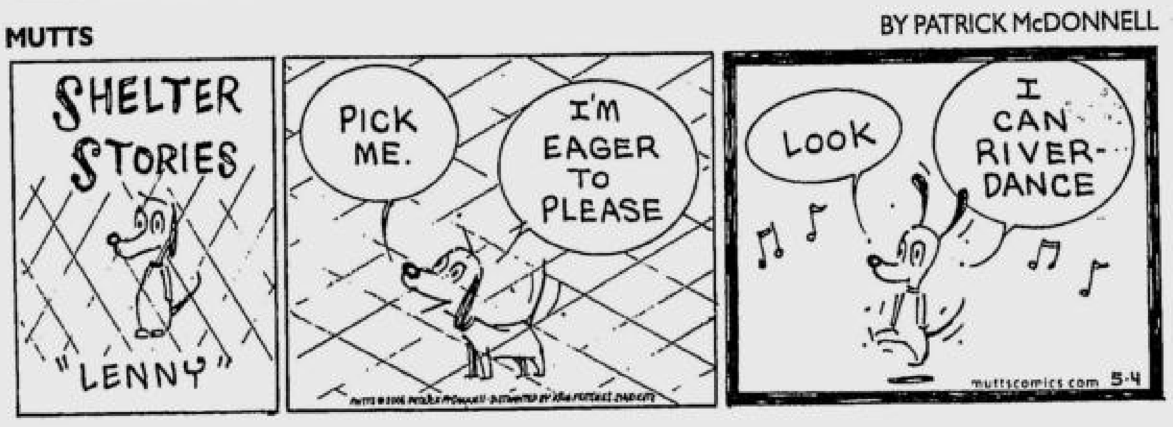
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


GRABE NA 'TO 'TAY!
SA SOBRANG INIT E NAGING GINATAN 'YUNG HALO-HALO KO!
SA SOBRANG INIT E KAILANGAN KONG GUMAMIT NG POT-HOLDER PAG NAGLALARO AKO NG GOLF.
SA SOBRANG INIT E NAGREREKLAMO ANG MGA RALLYISTA SA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PAG HINDI SILA BINOBOMBA NG WATER CANNON.
SOBRA NGA YATA ANG INIT. NALUTO NA 'YANG MGA UTAK N'YO SA PAGKAKABILAD N'YO D'YAN.
KAYA PALA AMOY SISIG...

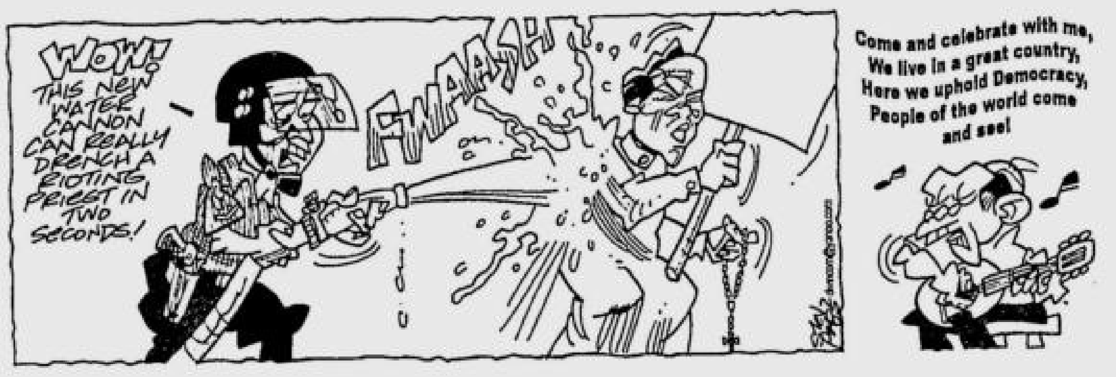
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"LENNY"
PICK ME.
I'M EAGER TO PLEASE
LOOK
I CAN RIVER-DANCE
muttscomics.com 5-4

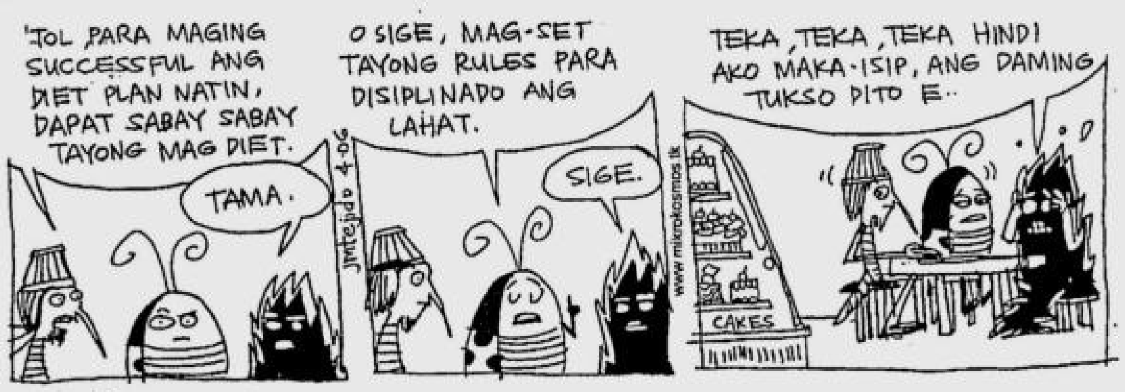
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WOW! THIS NEW WATER CANNON CAN REALLY DRENCH A RIOTING PRIEST IN TWO SECONDS!
FWAASH!
Come and celebrate with me, We live in a great country, Here we uphold Democracy, People of the world come and see!

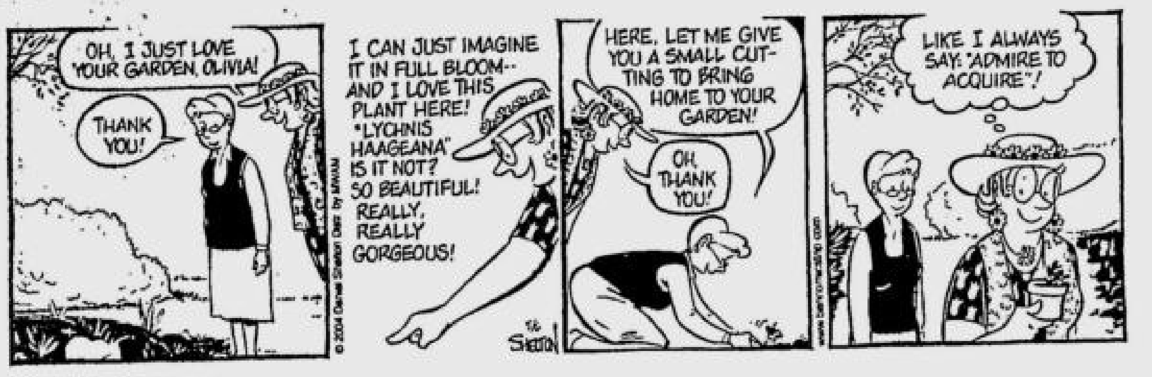
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


'TOL PARA MAGING SUCCESSFUL ANG DIET PLAN NATIN, DAPAT SABAY SABAY TAYONG MAG DIET.
TAMA.
O SIGE, MAG-SET TAYONG RULES PARA DISIPLINADO ANG LAHAT.
SIGE.
TEKA, TEKA, TEKA HINDI AKO MAKA-ISIP, ANG DAMING TUKSO DITO E..
CAKES
www.mikrokosmos.tk

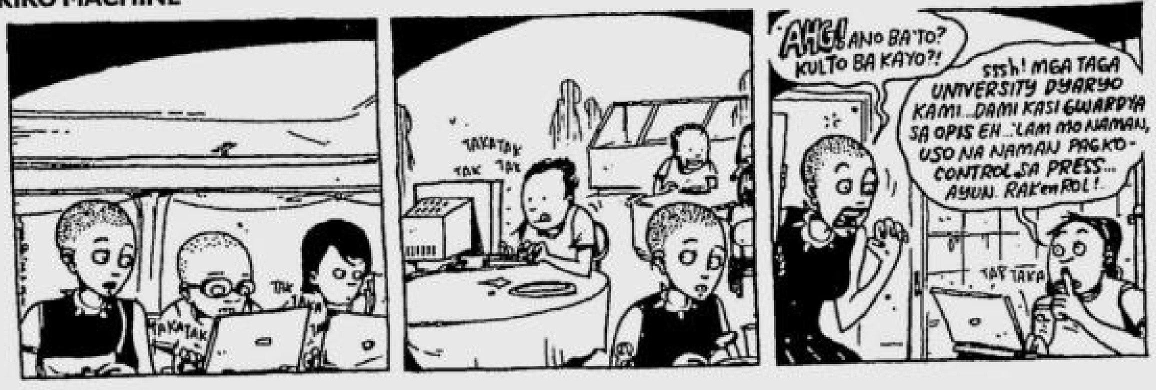
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OH, I JUST LOVE YOUR GARDEN, OLIVIA!
THANK YOU!
I CAN JUST IMAGINE IT IN FULL BLOOM-- AND I LOVE THIS PLANT HERE! "LYCHNIS HAAGEANA" IS IT NOT? SO BEAUTIFUL! REALLY, REALLY GORGEOUS!
HERE, LET ME GIVE YOU A SMALL CUTTING TO BRING HOME TO YOUR GARDEN!
OH, THANK YOU!
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY: "ADMIRE TO ACQUIRE"!

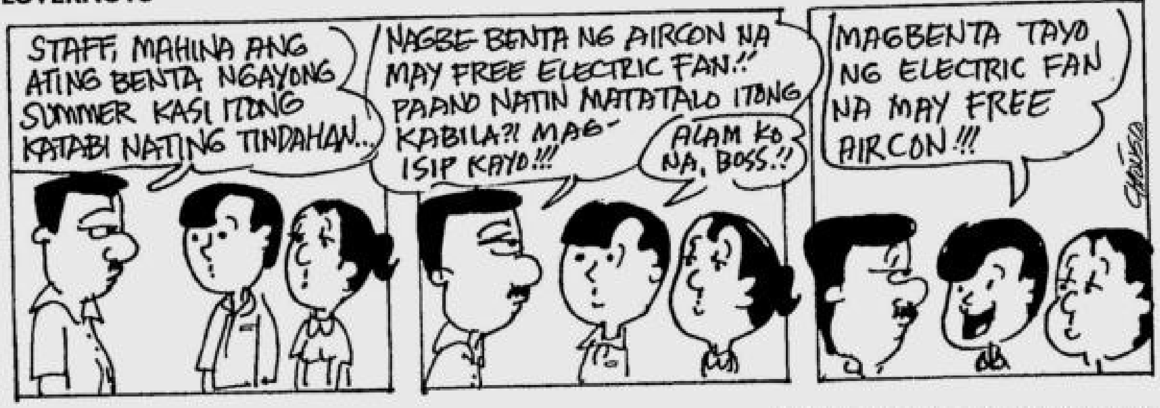
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TAKATAK
TAKATAK TAK TAK
AHG! ANO BA'TO? KULTO BA KAYO?!
SSSH! MGA TAGA UNIVERSITY DYARYO KAMI...DAMI KASI GWARDYA SA OPIS EH...'LAM MO NAMAN, USO NA NAMAN PAGKO-CONTROL SA PRESS... AYUN. RAK'en ROL!
TAP TAKA

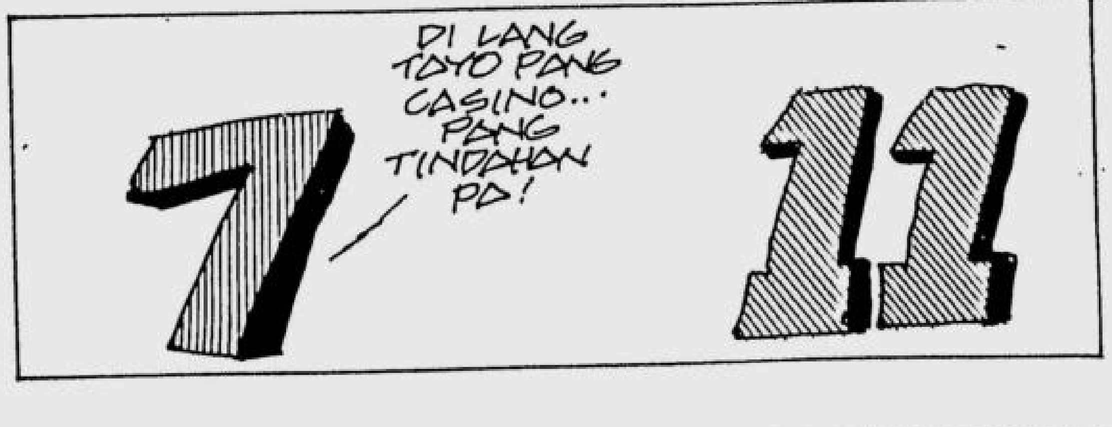
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


STAFF, MAHINA ANG ATING BENTA NGAYONG SUMMER KASI ITONG KATABI NATING TINDAHAN...
NAGBE-BENTA NG AIRCON NA MAY FREE ELECTRIC FAN!! PAANO NATIN MATATALO ITONG KABILA?! MAG-ISIP KAYO!!!
ALAM KO NA, BOSS!!
MAGBENTA TAYO NG ELECTRIC FAN NA MAY FREE AIRCON!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI LANG TAYO PANG CASINO... PANG TINDAHAN PA!
7
11

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Meet the other 'Big Brother'

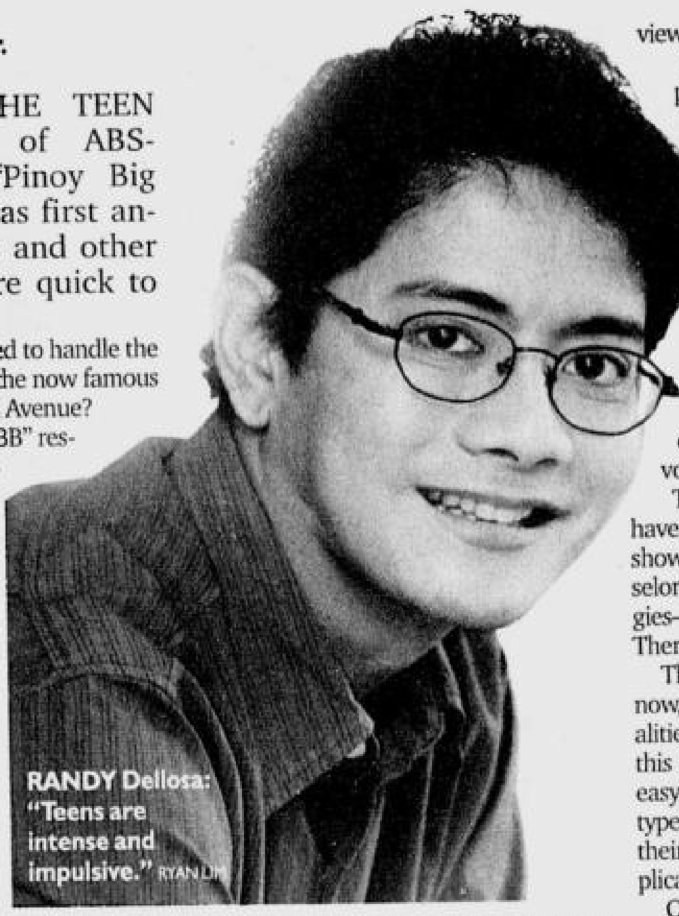
Resident counselor discusses the perks, perils of teen life in 'PBB' house

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN THE TEEN Edition of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Big Brother" series was first announced, parents and other media critics were quick to express concern.

Are teenagers equipped to handle the pressures of isolation in the now famous house on Mother Ignacia Avenue?

Dr. Randy Dellosa, "PBB" resident psychologist, tackled this, and more, with INQUIRER Entertainment.


RANDY Dellosa: "Teens are intense and impulsive." RYAN LIM

"Teens are intense and impulsive. They may not always know how to control this. They may also go overboard in testing the limits. A possible outcome are love affairs that may not end well," Dellosa said.

Another vital issue is sexuality, he pointed out. "Teenagers with raging hormones may find a need to release this."

But he is not *that* worried about the housemates, Dellosa said. "I'm more concerned about the teen viewers. They look up to the housemates as role models. What if the housemates commit mistakes? We can't really prevent exploratory behavior, but [since it's on TV], teen viewers might think it's acceptable."

He said the housemates are well-protected. "Big Brother and the whole staff are watching. I am on call 24-7."

After his first "counseling session" with them just hours before this interview, he offered this observation: "Individually and as a group, they are keen on exploring, but they are also very cautious. They are aware that negative behavior would merit some form of consequence from Big Brother and the voting public."

The teen housemates seemed to have learned from the experiences of the show's two previous editions, the counselor said. "Some have picked up strategies—what to do and what not to. There's a greater fear of [censure]."

There's "balance" in the house right now, he said: "Big Brother picks personalities that are solid and unique. With this current batch, the boys are more easygoing and relaxed—boy-next-door types. The girls are more conflicted in their life stories, more emotionally complicated."

One, Jamilla Obispo is an unwed mother, who once worked as a model and GRO in a bar.

"Niña Jose has a history of anorexia nervosa," Dellosa added "That's a body

MEET/ A2-2

First 'Idol' auditions set June 3

By Marinel R. Cruz

"PHILIPPINE IDOL" HOPEFULS HAD BETTER be ready with audition pieces on June 3.

This is according to ABC 5, which announced on Tuesday that the first of three Manila auditions is set on June 3. The network has acquired the franchise for the phenomenally popular reality talent search from FremantleMedia.

The venue will be announced later.

Tryouts for the Visayas and Mindanao regions will be in Cebu and Davao, respectively, said Terra Daffon, ABC 5 senior vice president for corporate affairs.

Checklist

Fast-tract auditions will be held at satellite offices in SM Malls in key cities.

According to a checklist that ABC 5 sent to INQUIRER Entertainment, contestants should be at least 16 but not more than 28 years old on the day of the audition.

He or she must be a Filipino citizen or a bearer of dual citizenship, one of which is Filipino.

In case a contestant has dual citizenship,

FIRST/ A2-2

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Mad SCIENCE

Witness amazing experiments and science-related activities in this one-of a kind event.

Mad Science

6 May
Saturday 4pm
Activity Area
Robinsons Place
Sta. Rosa

a world to discover

ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com

Novellino
AWARDED

Novellino

The only way to enjoy wine for all occasions.

You know the day is special when you open a bottle of Novellino wines. Bold, refreshing flavors. Rich, sparkling textures. Make each day special - it has never tasted so good.

HORMONAL HAIR LOSS:
Save Your Hair at Svenson!

"I do part-time modeling so when I noticed that my hair was starting to go limp and thin out, I panicked! I found out that my dry and thinning hair was triggered by stress and the high testosterone level on my body. With Svenson's effective hair treatments, I was able to bring back the natural thickness and volume of my hair. I'm so thankful there's Svenson! Now I can flaunt my healthy hair anytime and anywhere I want!"

Clarizza King, *Model*

WOMEN AT Svenson
End Your Hair Loss Misery Today

Call 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
TOMAS MORATO 3/F CKB Center
BINONDO 11/F Federal Tower Bldg.
ALABANG 4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 234-0851 7/F Keppel Centre

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13
2 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13
3 (DOLBY)	CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT
4 (DOLBY)	CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	THE SENTINEL PG13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3	SILENT HILL
4	THE SENTINEL

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	SILENT HILL
5	CHINESE TALL STORY

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994

1	CHINESE TALL STORY
2	SILENT HILL
3	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4	SLITHER

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600-3025

[illegible]	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3	SUBMERGED
3	FINAL DESTINATION

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-6271

☆	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
☆	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
☆	RESERVED
☆	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 (SDDS)	THE WILD
3 (DTS)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 GOLD (DTS)	AQUAMARINE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE SENTINEL
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SILENT HILL
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
8 (DOLBY STEREO)	SLITHER
9 (DOLBY STEREO)	PAMAHIIN
10 (DOLBY STEREO)	D'LUCKY ONES

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	THE WILD
2 (DOLBY)	THE SENTINEL
3 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 (DOLBY)	SILENT HILL

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	SLITHER
3	SILENT HIILL
4	PAMAHIIN
5	THE SENTINEL

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PLEASE CALL
2	PLEASE CALL
3	PLEASE CALL
4	PLEASE CALL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	SLITHER
2	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3	SILENT HILL

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4440346)

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	BASIC INSTINCT 2

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 (DTS ES)	BASIC INSTINCT 2
4	JUST FRIEND

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	V FOR VENDETTA
2	D' LUCKY ONES

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	SILENT HILL
2 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 (DOLBY)	AQUAMARINE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NANNY MC PHEE
2 (DTS)	THE SENTINEL
3 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4	BASIC INSTINCT 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1	NANNY MC PHEE
2 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 (DTS)	THE SENTINEL
4	BASIC INSICNT 2

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	ICE AGE 3
3 (DOLBY)	BASIC INSTINCT 2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	BASIC INSTINCT 2
2	SUBMERGED
3 (DOLBY)	TRISTAN & ISOLDE
4 (DTS)	NANNY MC PHEE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	EIGHT BELOW
3 (DOLBY)	THE HILLS HAVE EYES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1	THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2	NORTH COUNTRY

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	PLEASE CALL
2	PLEASE CALL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	PLEASE CALL
2	PLEASE CALL
3	PLEASE CALL
4 (DTS)	PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	THE SENTINEL
3 (DTS)	NANNY MC PHEE
4	BASIC INSTINCT 2
5	SLITHER

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2	BASIC INSTINCT 2
3	THE WILD
4	TRISTAN & ISOLDE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	SLITHER
2	SILENT HILL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 • THX
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 THE WILD
5 AQUAMARINE
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
7 SILENT HILL
8 SLITHER
9 THE SENTINEL
10 PAMAHIIN

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 SLITHER
3 THE SENTINEL
4 SILENT HILL
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
6 THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
7 AQUAMARINE

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 SLITHER
4 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
6 THE WILD
7 THE SENTINEL
8 SILENT HILL

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 SLITHER
4 THE SENTINEL
5 SILENT HILL
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 PAMAHIIN
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 AQUAMARINE
3 SILENT HILL
4 THE WILD

THE DA VINCI CODE 05.18.06
not yet rated by MTRCB

BEAT THE LINES...get your TICKETS in ADVANCE!!!
Tickets are now available at the ticket booth
Present the ticket directly to the Cinema Porter

OPENS ON MAY 18
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • NOVALICHES • PIONEER
MALABON • STA. ROSA • IMUS • DASMARIÑAS • LIPA • STARMILLS, PAMPANGA
ANGELES • BACOLOD • ILOILO

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 NANNY MCPHEE
4 THE SENTINEL

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 THE WILD
4 TRISTAN AND ISOLDE
5 TIGER BLADE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
3 SLITHER
4 SHE'S THE MAN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 BASIC INSTINCT 2
3 SLITHER
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES

IMUS (046) 876-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 AMERICAN SOLDIERS
3 SILENT HILL
4 SLITHER

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 SLITHER
3 GRANDMA'S BOY
4 NORTH COUNTRY
5 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 THE WILD
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 JUST FRIENDS
6 BASIC INSTINCT 2

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 THE WILD
4 TIGER BLADE
5 SILENT HILL
6 GRANDMA'S BOY

The
Perfect Gift
All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

SM CINEMA
movietime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*
CENTER stage
LIVE-LARGE
831-1000 loc. 2871, 2873, 2882, 2891
BIG MOVIES - BIG SHOWS - BIG EVENTS

TOM CRUISE
M:I:III
THE MISSION BEGINS

THE BIGGEST
ACTION MOVIE
OF THE YEAR
NOW SHOWING
2 DAYS BEFORE
U.S. PLAYDATE

FEEL THE ACTION AND EXCITEMENT AT SM CINEMA!

100 Mission: Impossible 3 caps from United International Pictures [illegible]
What was Ethan Hunt mission on this movie? [illegible] with your particulars [illegible] and the first 50 e-mails [illegible]
Multiple e-mails will only be counted as a single entry.
Watch out this space for the names of the promo winners.
All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prizes.

Complement your movie watching with
M:I:III Movie Meal
Now available exclusively at all SM Cinema Snack Bars nationwide
₱100

SM CINEMA
United International Pictures
Solar Entertainment Corporation
HI-PODIUM

To get Barbie Fairytopia Mermadia plus other weekly cartoon logos
& get a chance to win P100,000 or trip for 4 to boracay or palawan
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2201, series of 2006

Free
Barbie
Back 2 Back
Special Screening
Meet and Greet Barbie live!
Plus fun activities and more
May 7 Megamall • North Edsa • Southmall • Cebu
Fairview • Sta. Mesa Manila • Pampanga • Davao
for every purchase of Barbie meal
tickets dated on April 22 & 29 will be honored on May 7

Fairytopia
Mermaidia
The Barbie diaries

Distributed by Magnavision
Sumo
NEXTBASE

BARBIE FAIRYTOPIA and associated Trade Mark and Trade Dress is owned by and used under license from Mattel Inc. ©2006 Mattel Inc. All Rights Reserved

METRO MANILA

PODIUM
CINEMA 1
M:I:III
CINEMA 2
M:I:III

SM MEGACINEMA
THE WILD
SENTINEL
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
AQUAMARINE
AMERICA
SUBMERGED
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
M:I:III
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
M:I:III
THE WILD
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
AQUAMARINE
SENTINEL

SM CITY DASMARINAS
M:I:III
AMERICA
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SUBMERGED
SENTINEL
AMERICA
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
EIGHT BELOW
ICE AGE 2
M:I:III

SM CITY STA. MESA
M:I:III
AQUAMARINE
SILENT HILL
SENTINEL
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
AMERICA
THE WILD
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY BICUTAN
SENTINEL
THE WILD
SILENT HILL
M:I:III

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
THE WILD
M:I:III
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MANILA
AQUAMARINE
AMERICA
SUBMERGED
M:I:III
THE WILD
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
SENTINEL
D LUCKY ONES
TRISTAN & ISOLDE
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
SILENT HILL

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
M:I:III
SELENT HILL
M:I:III
M:I:III
SENTINEL
PAMAHIIN
THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
D LUCKY ONES

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
M:I:III
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
THE WILD

SM CITY SUCAT
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III
SENTINEL
SILENT HILL

movietime
NEW MOVIES

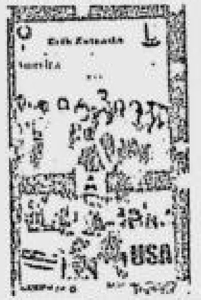
AQUAMARINE

Two best friends has found another frienda mermaid, that is. Only true love can make her stand with her own feet forever.

AQUAMARINE

America:
We Salute The Military
With A Preview of Beauties

Witness the story of Ms. Faye Almazan in fulfilling her own American Dream, with Mr. Eric Estrada in a Starring role



LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
M:I:III
THE WILD
JUST FRIENDS
M:I:III

SM CITY MARILAO
M:I:III
AMERICA
M:I:III
SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS
THE WILD
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III

SM CITY BACOOR
AMERICA
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III
SILENT
THE WILD
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
SUBMERGED

SM CITY STA. ROSA
AMERICA
SENTINEL
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III

SM CITY PAMPANGA
M:I:III
M:I:III
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
CHINESE TALL STORY
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY LUCENA
M:I:III
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
M:I:III
EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY MOLINO
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
M:I:III
M:I:III
SENTINEL
NORTH COUNTR
THE DARK
CHINESE TALL STORY
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III

SM CITY ILOILO
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
GRANDMA'S BOY
RESERVED
CHINESE TALL STORY

SM CITY DAVAO
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
SENTINEL
THE WILD
M:I:III
M:I:III

SM CITY CAGAYAN
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
GRANDMA'S BOY
M:I:III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

First 'Idol' . . .

From page A2-1

he/she must present the original and two certified true copies of his/her Philippine passport.

He/she should be prepared to sing two songs from the official song list found on the "Philippine Idol" website. (www.philippineidol.com)

On audition day, a contestant must submit a completed "Philippine Idol" application form and two photos (one full-body shot or at least 3R-sized, and one close-up or at least passport size).

If a contestant is under 18, a parent or legal guardian must sign the application form.

The contestant should submit the original and two certified true copies of birth certificates and two kinds of IDs (i. e., passport, driver's license, SSS/GSIS, school or company ID).

Judges, hosts

A press conference to officially introduce the RP "Idol" judges and hosts is set on May 24, Daffon said.

Maestro Ryan Cayabyab is the first judge to be confirmed. A namesake, Ryan Agoncillo, is one of two hosts.

"During the press-con, we will choose from among the members of the entertainment media our 'Press Idol,'" said Daffon.

Meet the other . . .

From page A2-1

image and self-esteem problem. Mikki Arceo has a compulsion to stand out in a crowd. But that's a reaction to people who try to box her in."

The biggest stunner was when high school valedictorian Aldred Gatchalian chose voluntary eviction after only seven days in the house.

Aldred had consulted both Big Brother and Dellosa before he left. "We wanted him to stay, but he had already decided," the counselor said.

(Dellosa is available for counseling Tuesday mornings. But for Aldred, Dellosa had to make special house calls.)

Aldred had an "adjustment" problem, he said, which happens "when a person, faced with a stressor, does not have the coping mechanisms to deal with it."

IQ is not EQ

Among Aldred's stressors was homesickness. "He missed his mother. When a person feels isolated in a group, insecurities and issues emerge."

Dellosa opined that if there's one lesson from Aldred's experience, it's that "IQ doesn't necessarily mean EQ or Social Quotient. You may be smart, but dealing with other people and dealing with your own emotions are another matter altogether. His stay in the house would hopefully teach him to develop emotional and relational skills."

Dellosa said Aldred is now doing well and will be ready to face the public in a few days.

"All he does now is sleep," Dellosa quipped.

Hot and happening at 42 (a naughty chat with Zsa Zsa Padilla)

From page A2-4

matic love story. It's really one for the books! . ..

Tita Nena was one of my mom's closest friends. She even told my mom once that she wants me to write her biography. I kidded her and said, "Ok as long as you pay me per word."

In many ways, Tita Nena reminds me of my mom. Both of them seem intimidating but they soften up when hit in the right spot. Mothers don't want just to be heard but to be really listened to. Now that my mom's gone, I miss her *sermons* in a way I never thought I would. Maybe when the mom in Tita Nena and Liezl prevail, they will understand each other a little more.

I texted Albert for his reaction to Tita Nena's explosive statements. His textback: "We decided to just let it pass. No need to clear our name. It's been going on since time immemorial. We don't want to talk about it anymore not only for us but more for our kids. It doesn't matter what people think. What matters is God knows the truth."

Family is family. Tita Nena, Liezl and Albert should just keep on loving so that it will stop hurting. And before they know it, understanding will come somewhere along the way.

Ate Vi's advice

From page A2-4

died about two years ago. "I met April before she died," said Vilma. "I would attend activities at the special school in Lipa that she attended."

Vilma was not in the country when April died. "I learned only when Daisy delivered a speech about starting a foundation named after April. She talked about her loss [but] I saw only her strength."

The last lines of Daisy's speech were: When parents die, the children are called orphans. What do people call a mother who has lost her child?" These lines are in the two-part episode of "MMK," directed by Olive Lamasan.

"With material like this, I still get excited [as an actress]," said Vilma. "It's in the blood—even if I am already a public servant (three-term mayor of Lipa City)."

She has no intention of furthering her political career—yet. "I've been asked to run for governor or congressman," she said. "But I have no immediate plans. My being a mayor was destiny. My being an actress was also destiny. I know there's something else I'm also destined to be."

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
DAHLIA
The MINER
The DARK NURSES
The JANITOR
The GREY CHILD
The RED PYRAMID
We've been expecting you
SILENT HILL
NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
Based on the #1 survival game from KONAMI

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

THX

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 AQUAMARINE	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 SILENT HILL	4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 AQUAMARINE	3 THX MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
		4 SENTINEL	5 THE WILD	6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	7 SILENT HILL
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 SENTINEL	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS		
		3 SILENT HILL GUARANTEED SEATS	4 AQUAMARINE GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
		3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	4 SILENT HILL	5 AQUAMARINE	
ACC	AYALA CENTER, CEBU	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 NORTH COUNTRY	4 THE DARK
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 AQUAMARINE		
		3 SILENT HILL	4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
The Philippine Star's Kids Only Triple Treat May 5, 2006	JAMMIN with DISNEY May 4 to 7, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Cebu Business Month's Opening Salvo May 5, 2006	Campus Quest 2006 (Pre-Pageant) May 8, 2006

GREENBELT
Dinner Theater
May 9 & 16, 2006

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents TWO & TWO MAKE SEX
at REP's Globe Theater - May 5, 6 & 7
For Inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's
Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

THE DA VINCI CODE
Be among the first to crack the code
BUY YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE NOW
Visit our cinema ticketbooths in GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, MARKET! MARKET! & AYALA CENTER CEBU. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation
NOT YET RATED BY THE MTRCB. AGE RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY.
OPENS MAY 18 AT ALL AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
COLUMBIA PICTURES
Ayala Malls

Celebrate Jammin' with Disney
©Disney

Come & join
Jumpin' Jam
A Live Musical Meet and Greet show with Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy, Chip and Dale

glorietta
April 27, 28, 29, & 30, 2006
11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 752-7272

ALABANG TOWN
May 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2006
May 4 & 5:
12 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm
May 6 & 7:
12 pm, 1:30pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm, 6:30 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
842-2782 • 772-1860

MARKET! MARKET!
May 11, 12, 13, & 14, 2006
12 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Where Cebu's heart beats
May 18, 19, 20, & 21, 2006
1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline;
(032) 231-5342 loc 324

Explore the world of your favorite Disney Characters, *Princess Castle, Playhouse Disney, Disney/Pixar's CARS Racetrack, Fairies Enchanted Forest, W.I.T.C.H. The Krandakar Maze* from April 27 to May 31!

THE BIGGEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR!!!
TOM CRUISE
M:i:III
MissionImpossible.com
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
NOW SHOWING!
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

ENTERTAINMENT

ZSA ZSA wears a binder when sleeping.

Hot and happening at 42

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ZSA ZSA PADILLA (WHO TURNS 42 THIS month) joins the Hollywood trend of being hot and happening, as 40 indeed becomes the new 30. Doesn't she kinda remind you of **Uma Thurman**?

For Zsa Zsa, it all boils down to healthy eating habits, regular exercise and of course Dr. **Vicki Belo**'s "Midas touch." Thanks to mesotherapy to eliminate stubborn fat she could not exercise away, and Fraxel and Thermage to tighten her abdominal skin and improve stretch marks, Zsa Zsa flaunts a physique unmarred by age.

Just like her, I will be 42 soon. But why look my age if I refuse to even act my age (hehehe)? *Con mucho* Belo, I somehow maintain my "market value." Dr. Vicki has truly given a whole new meaning to the saying "Life begins at 40" and how! Without feeling 40, Zsa and I enjoyed some girl talk.

Has your youthful body enhanced intimate moments with Tito Dolphy?

Yes would be an understatement! I sleep with a binder on but no undies. He knows the cue (giggles). I have also become more comfy with myself. I hope women who are pushing 40 out there will snap out of the mindset na *pag* 40 *ka na* it's mid-life crisis time.

What was his reaction to your sizzling billboard on Edsa?

He's used to me changing my look every so often. *Walang bawal.* He's so cool. Once I came home with a different hair color, he just said "*Akala ko may* foreigner *tayong* guest!"

Don't you think you're sexier than your daughter Karylle?

Karylle has her own charm. All women go through certain phases in their lives before they can exude a certain mystique. Wait till Karylle reaches her prime!

What's the secret of your staying power?

Not all singers are given a chance to act. I'm lucky I was able to cross over. I was sort of prepared for acting. But I will always go back to singing.

Will your new body fit into a bridal gown?

Abangan!

Sad for Liezl

I am sad that Tita Nena (**Amalia Fuentes**) is on the warpath again versus **Albert** and **Liezl Martinez**. She says that the couple should stop making it appear that she gave them a hard time when they were starting in the US.

I was a bridesmaid at the Martinezes' wedding and *ninang* to their eldest, **Alyanna**. From Day 1 when they eloped, I was privy to their melodra-

HOT/ A2-3

VILMA Santos: "Pay your taxes, kids. Learn from my experience."

Ate Vi's advice

By Nini Valera

YOUNG STARS SHOULD take care of their finances and pay their taxes.

This advice came from Vilma Santos, whose assets were frozen by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in the '80s for non-payment of income tax.

"It hasn't happened again since," Vilma told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "But I know what [other stars] are going through right now—it's not easy. When you're young, somebody else handles your money. When you start having problems, then you start wondering what happened to your earnings."

She considers herself lucky to have recovered from the brush with the BIR even if her marriage to Edu Manzano suffered from it.

"Edu wanted me to be Mrs. Manzano, to lie low from show biz. But I had to work and pay my debts. I survived and recovered. Not everybody is as lucky."

Surprised

Vilma was surprised to learn that Luis, her son by Edu, paid a bigger income tax than she did this year.

"For the first time in my life, I felt insecure," Vilma said, laughing. "Luis was earning more—I told myself, this couldn't happen. But it's happening."

She described Luis as a good person who wants to enjoy life. "[And] the girls! I know my son, he's definitely no longer a virgin. But I still don't want him to get married and make me a grandmother," Vilma admitted. "He just turned 25!"

Direk Vi?

The actress, who's making a TV comeback tonight on a special two-part episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya"—now celebrating it's 15th anniversary—observed that today's young stars are all talented.

"And beautiful," she gushed. "They can dance, sing, they can do anything. But the problem there is, it's hard to stand out. During my time, it was a one-on-one with Nora (Aunor) and me."

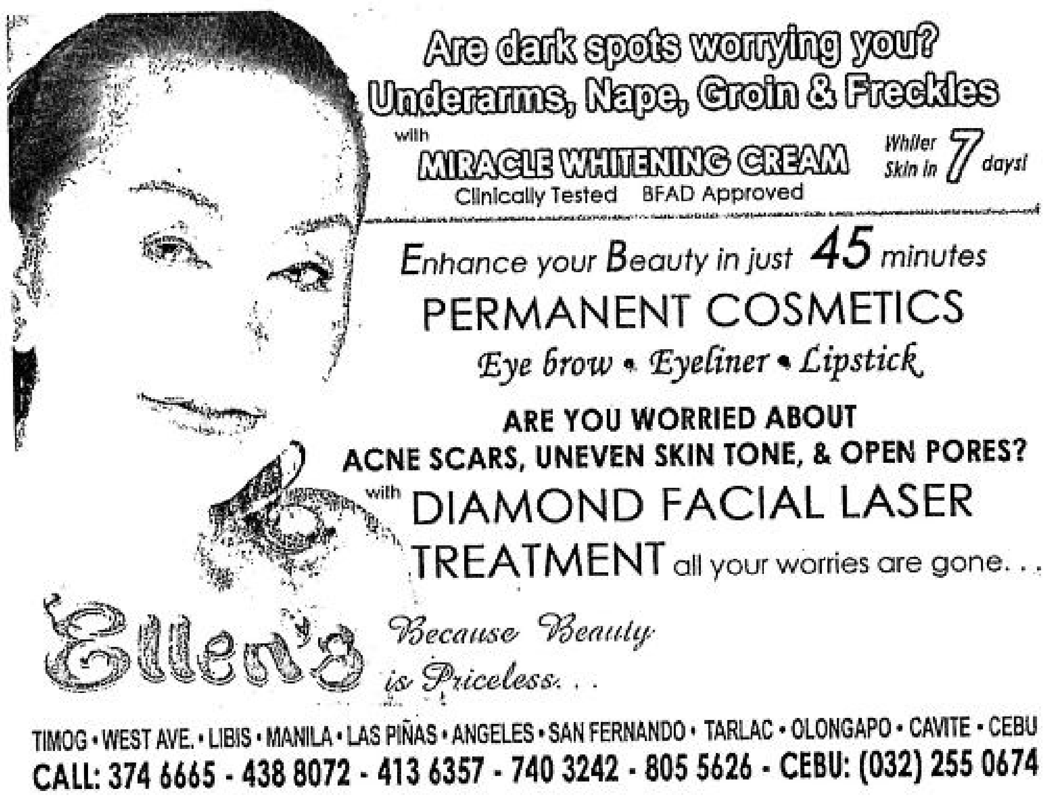
What more does she want to achieve?

"I'd like to direct, like Laurice Guillen or Marilou Diaz-Abaya," she declared. Other than this, she's content.

For her "MMK" stint, Vilma said she found the perfect story. "They have been asking me to do an episode for the longest time, but we couldn't agree on the script. I found this story of Daisy Hernandez touching.

Tonight's story revolves around Daisy's relationship with her special child April, who

ATE VI'S/ A2-3



Are dark spots worrying you?
Underarms, Nape, Groin & Freckles
with MIRACLE WHITENING CREAM Whiter Skin in 7 days!
Clinically Tested BFAD Approved
Enhance your Beauty in just 45 minutes
PERMANENT COSMETICS
Eye brow • Eyeliner • Lipstick
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT
ACNE SCARS, UNEVEN SKIN TONE, & OPEN PORES?
with DIAMOND FACIAL LASER TREATMENT all your worries are gone...
Ellen's Because Beauty is Priceless...
TIMOG • WEST AVE. • LIBIS • MANILA • LAS PIÑAS • ANGELES • SAN FERNANDO • TARLAC • OLONGAPO • CAVITE • CEBU
CALL: 374 6665 - 438 8072 - 413 6357 - 740 3242 - 805 5626 - CEBU: (032) 255 0674

TOM CRUISE
M:i:III
THE MISSION BEGINS MAY 3
MissionImpossible.com
NOW SHOWING
at all
ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
galleria • ermita • metro east • pioneer
malabon • novaliches • imus • sta. rosa
lipa • dasmariñas • starmills, pampanga
angeles • bacolod • iloilo
MTRCB Rating: PG-13
For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls call our CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555 or visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza
THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY Gateway CiNePLEx*10 DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

SLITHER 1:20 / 3:25 / 5:30	SILENT HILL 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	THE SENTINEL 12:25 / 2:45 / 5:05 / 7:25 / 9:45	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
THE WILD 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 7:40 / 9:50	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:50 / 12:30 / 1:50 / 2:30 / 3:10 4:30 / 5:10 / 5:50 / 7:10 7:50 / 8:30 / 9:25 / 9:50	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:10
AQUAMARINE 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	D' LUCKY ONES 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00		ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

Ali MALL CINEMAS

1	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3 12:25 / 3:05 / 5:45 / 8:25	2	SILENT HILL 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20	3	THE SENTINEL 1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15
4	THE WILD 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	5	SLITHER 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph
ARANETA COLISEUM
PBA PHILIPPINE CUP
MAY 7 4:10 RED BULL vs TALK N TEXT
Sun. 6:30 STA LUCIA vs SAN MIGUEL
FRA LIPPO LIPPI CONCERT
MAY 13, Saturday 8:00 pm

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call: 687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	SILENT HILL 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:05 R-13
2	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45 PG-13
3	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 PG-13
4	AQUAMARINE 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 G

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE SENTINEL - PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	MAQUAMARINE - G 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13 12:50,3:30,6:10,8:50
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13 1:40,4:20,7:00,9:40	THE WILD GP 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13 3:20,5:10,7:50,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-144041
MATINEE P111.00 – FREE SEATING – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MON. TO FRI.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Where You Find The Best. JOB Market
YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 AQUAMARINE 11:15, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 GP
CINEMA 2 MI-3 11:05, 1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45 PG13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 MI-3 12:15, 2:55, 5:35, 8:15, 10:50 PG13
CINEMA 4 MI-3 10:30, 1:10, 3:50, 6:30, 9:10 PG13
CINEMA 5 MI-3 11:50, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 PG13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM

MAY 5 & 6, 2006	SHOW GIRLS	9:00PM
MAY 12 & 13, 2006	JAYA OVER JOYED	9:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

MAY 1, 2006	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
MAY 4, 2006	JONNATHAN BADON	8:30PM
MAY 5 & 6 2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL"	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 MTRCB PG-13 12.00, 2.50, 5.40, 8.30
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE III MTRCB PG-13 1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10.00 LMF
3 (CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT)
4 (CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT)
PREMIERE THEATRE AQUAMARINE MTRCB GP 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre
Call 633-7851 loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details
Shangri-La Plaza

SCHERING HSBC The world's local bank PLDT
JJ McCOLL'S
we're still HOT!
NIÑA ROMUALDEZ LYNN SHERMAN SHAMAINE CENTENERA AND PINKY MARQUEZ
4 WOMEN WHO SHARED THEIR FIRST LOVE ...THEIR MUSIC AND 1 MAN
Teatrino at the Promenade, Greenhills
APRIL 28 & 29 MAY 5,6 AT 8PM.
"BAWDY, BLISSFUL, BITCHY, BOUNTIFUL, BRATTY!" – NESTOR TORRE
"A FEEL GOOD MUSICAL.... BONDING INTRO... GO SEE THE SHOW!" – JOHN SILVA
"A giant consciousness raising session.." - Rina Jimenez David
TICKETS: P800 & P1,000
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

WHAT'S INSIDE

Pre-need sales down 28% /B6

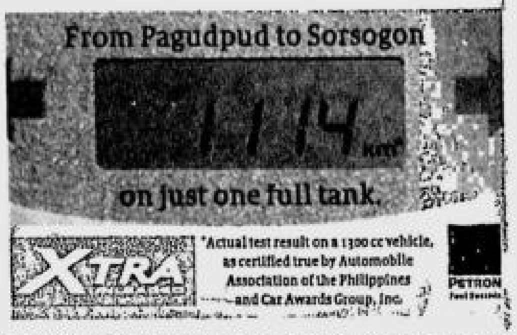
Cut in oil import tariff seen /B12

Website: www.inq7money.net

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • *Assistant Editor* Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_business@inquirer.com.ph



*Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.

Finance rejects tax relief for workers

FILIPINO jobseekers register during a two-day job fair offering more than 20,000 jobs in suburban Manila on Wednesday. The Philippines has a chronic unemployment problem, with nearly 3 million jobless Filipinos and millions others complaining of being underemployed. *(See related story on Page B3.)* AP

Says foregone revenue can reach ₱7B

By Michelle V. Remo

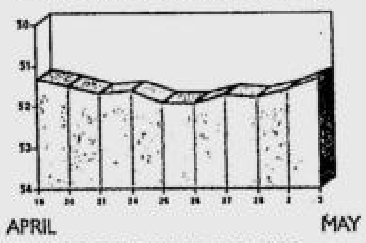
THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has thumbed down a proposal from the labor department to give additional income tax relief to workers, saying the government should be conservative in giving incentives until it has fully resolved its deficit woes.

The Department of Labor and Employment specifically asked the DOF to increase the threshold amount of bonuses and benefits ex-

FINANCE/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱51.33 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 3, 2006

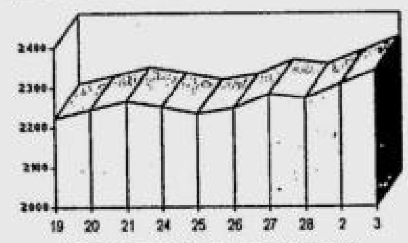
¥113.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2006

GOLD: $673.20-673.70

per ounce Hong Kong, May 3, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Shares up another 1.53%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.53 percent higher yesterday in follow-through buying, buoyed by an improving fiscal and corporate outlook, dealers said.

They said the tone was positive and recent gains look likely to be sustained as investors become more confident.

SHARES/ B2

RP eyes $9B worth of currency swap deals

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES IS NEGOTIATING up to $9 billion worth of fresh bilateral currency swap deals with Japan, South Korea and China as part of measures to prevent the recurrence of external shocks similar to the Asian currency turmoil of 1997.

"This is part of the Chiang Mai initiative," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Officer-in-Charge Diwa Guinigundo said yesterday.

In order to prevent a future regional currency crisis and to cope with such turmoil rapidly if and when this happens, the Chiang Mai initiative provides for the establishment of a network of bilateral swap arrangements to provide short-term liquidity among Asean countries plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Government sources said the bilateral currency swaps would involve as much as $5 billion with Japan, $3 billion with South Korea and $1 billion with China.

It would be the country's first time to enter into a currency swap deal with Japan and Korea while the arrangement with China would be a renewal of a previous agreement.

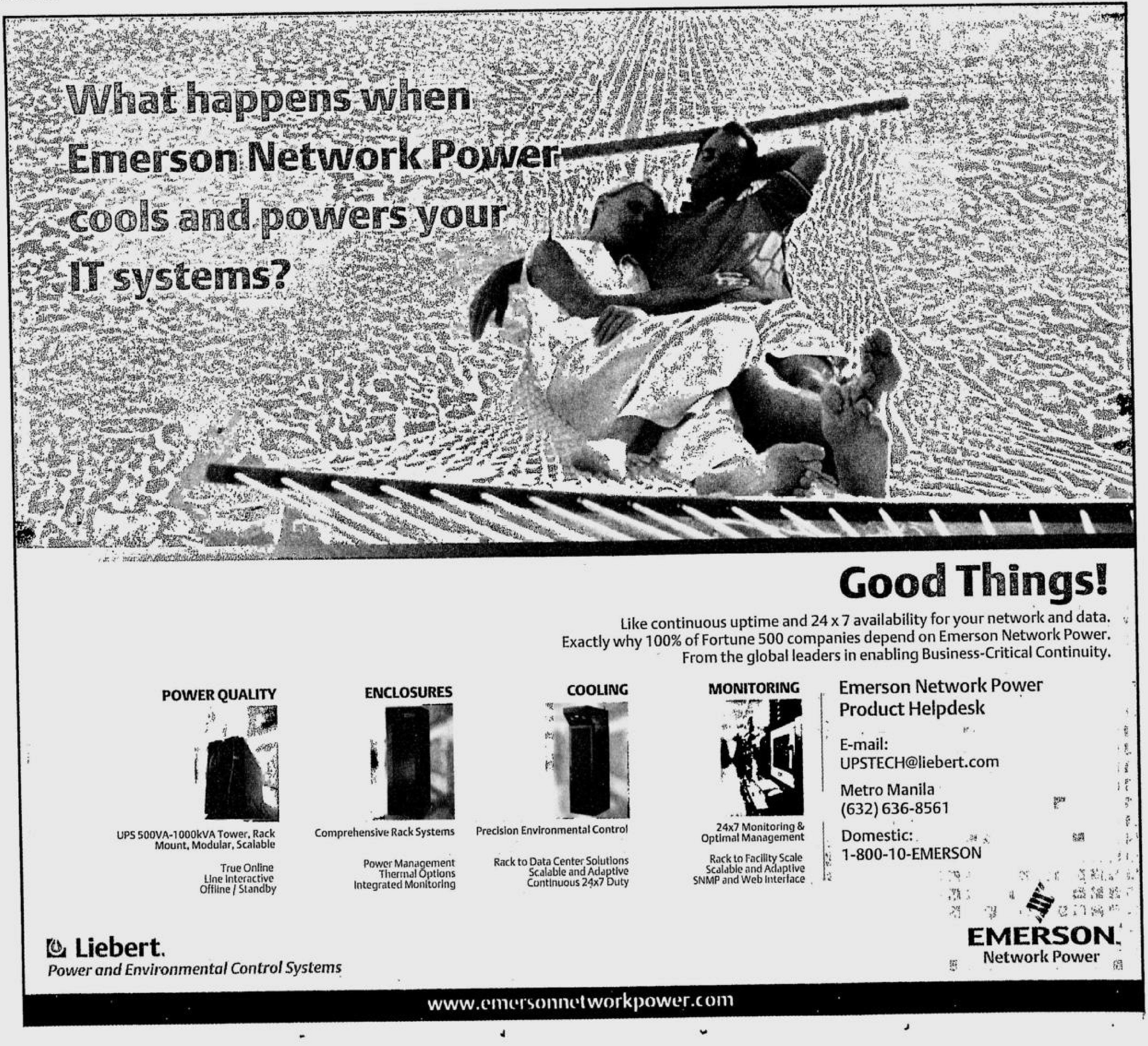
Guinigundo said the currency swap deals could be finalized this September at the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings in Singapore.

But other government sources said a preliminary framework could be agreed upon during the Asian Finance Ministers' Meetings in India this week.

The currency swap deal being worked out with Japan will be a two-way arrangement as it will commit the Philippines to provide up to $500 million in standby facility to the world's second biggest economy if and when such a need arises, the sources added.

Under the Chiang Mai initiative, the swap arrangements will supplement existing international financing facili-

RP EYES/ B6



What happens when Emerson Network Power cools and powers your IT systems?

Good Things!

Like continuous uptime and 24 x 7 availability for your network and data.
Exactly why 100% of Fortune 500 companies depend on Emerson Network Power.
From the global leaders in enabling Business-Critical Continuity.

POWER QUALITY
UPS 500VA-1000kVA Tower, Rack Mount, Modular, Scalable
True Online
Line Interactive
Offline / Standby

ENCLOSURES
Comprehensive Rack Systems
Power Management
Thermal Options
Integrated Monitoring

COOLING
Precision Environmental Control
Rack to Data Center Solutions
Scalable and Adaptive
Continuous 24x7 Duty

MONITORING
24x7 Monitoring & Optimal Management
Rack to Facility Scale
Scalable and Adaptive
SNMP and Web Interface

Emerson Network Power
Product Helpdesk

E-mail:
UPSTECH@liebert.com

Metro Manila
(632) 636-8561

Domestic:
1-800-10-EMERSON

Liebert.
Power and Environmental Control Systems

EMERSON.
Network Power

www.emersonnetworkpower.com

Teves pushes time limit for Congress to pass bills

By Michelle V. Remo

GIVEN THE DELAYS IN THE PASSAGE of the proposed 2006 national budget, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has proposed that legislators be given a time limit to act on urgent bills.

"We are government employees paid by taxpayers to do our job. (Legislators) should try to come up with good pieces of legislation at the least cost and within a reasonable time frame," Teves, who once served as congressman of Negros Oriental, said before he left for India Tuesday morning for the 39th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank.

Under Teves' proposal, the House of Representatives and the Senate will observe a prescribed period within which to act on urgent bills. For instance, he said, if the Lower House failed to act on a bill within a given time frame, the bill would be considered approved and automatically go to the Senate for the next stage of deliberations.

The finance chief said that to implement his proposal, the executive and the legislative branch could enter into an agreement as to the prescribed time frame, or legislators themselves could sponsor a bill to turn the proposal into law.

Teves made the suggestion in an interview with reporters hours before members of the Senate were dismayed by his absence and that of two other Cabinet officials in a hearing last Tuesday on pending economic bills.

Congress recently won the favor of the Supreme Court, which said it was illegal for Malacañang to prohibit members of the executive branch to attend congressional hearings.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was quoted as saying that if Cabinet officials were not interested in the legislative work of Congress, then legislators were also not interested in passing laws pushed by the executive branch.

Teves had to sacrifice attendance at the Senate hearing because he had to attend the annual meeting of the ADB together with other finance chiefs of other countries, the Department of Finance said.

Five months into the year, the legislative has yet to pass the P1.09-trillion national budget for 2006. Economic officials of the Arroyo administration have expressed concern over the delay, saying this would hamper the government's intention to pump-prime the economy.

Without the 2006 proposed budget, the government will be required to limit its spending within the 2005 budget, which stood at P963 billion.

Fiscal authorities said the proposed 2006 budget included additional funds for infrastructure development and enhancement of basic services, made possible partly by the additional revenues from the VAT Reform law.

The law, estimated to contributed P75 billion in incremental revenues, expanded the coverage of the value-added tax and raised the VAT rate to 12 percent from 10 percent.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas cor. Sedeño St., Makati City

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 31, 2006

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	571,972,042.08
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,829,836,408.40
Due from Other Banks		2,220,432,548.67
Interbanks Loans Receivable		4,822,963,782.87
Trading Account Securities (Net)		728,718,039.05
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		8,338,807,549.21
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		30,646,800,931.42
Equity Investments (Net)		25,000,000.00
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)		1,760,377,400.97
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		1,786,680,020.46
Others		2,036,183,548.12
TOTAL ASSETS	P	54,767,772,271.25
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	4,935,111,854.06
Savings Deposits		9,163,772,843.22
Time Deposits		32,030,554,623.04
Due to Bangko Sentral		22,986,238.38
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		212,485,785.30
Bills Payable		
Others		1,964,216,113.44
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		75,705,294.99
Other Liabilities		1,464,672,296.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	49,869,505,048.83
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,795,015,200.00
Surplus		2,651,081,487.98
Surplus Reserves		452,170,534.44
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	4,898,267,222.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	54,767,772,271.25
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Bills for Collection	P	407,063.38
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		171,371,112.16
Invested in:		
Government Securities		2,145,122.12
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock		99,029,099.03
Other Assets		70,196,891.01
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		171,371,112.16
Investment/Fund Management		-
Other Contingent Accounts		68,487,678.60
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	240,265,854.14

Additional Information:

1. Deposits of		
a) Government	P	-
b) Banks		29,578,100.23
c) Trust Department		70,004,028.01
2. a. Total Non-Performing Loans		1,858,864,295.12
b. Classified Loans & Other Risk Assets		4,276,877,694.68
c. General Loan Loss Reserve		301,139,065.77
d. Specific Loan Loss Reserve		1,263,829,043.44
e. Total DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,386,827,965.92
f. Past Due DOSRI Loans Advances		-
g. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		4.75%
h. Ratio of Total DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		3.54%
i. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI to Total Loan Portfolio		
j. Return on Equity		29.14%
3. Compliance with Magna Carta Credit for SMEs		
a. Percentage of total compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 6% for Small Enterprises		35.02%
b. Percentage of total compliance with the mandated credit allocation requirement of 2% for Medium Enterprises		6.13%

Board of Directors

Jose T. Pardo
Chairman

Arthur V. Ty
Vice Chairman

Jovencio F. Cinco
Vice Chairman

Margaret T. Cham

David O. Chua

Danilo L. Dolor

Pascual M. Garcia, III

Jose Macario Laurel, IV

Alberto A. Pedrosa

Regis V. Puno

Principal Officers

Pascual M. Garcia, III
President

Rolando A. Rodriguez
Executive
Vice President

Jaime V. L. Araneta
Senior Vice President

Noli S. Gomez
Senior Vice President

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Makati City) S.S.

We, PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA and PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) PERFECTO RAMON Z. DIMAYUGA
First Vice President

(Sgd) PASCUAL M. GARCIA, III
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25 April 2006, at City of Makati, affiant exhibiting to me their Community Tax Certificates No. 02121638 issued at Makati City on 16 January 2006 and No. 12799268 issued at Quezon City on 10 February 2006.

Doc. No. 71
Book No. 15
Page No. CCXXVII
Series of 2006

(Sgd) ATTY. JOSE HERNANDEZ DY
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL December 31, 2006
PTR No. 129401 Mkna. 1-17-06
IBP OR No. 642125 Mla. 1-17-06
City of Makati

Omen of little faith

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

STOCKHOLDERS OF THE CELEBRATED EQuitable PCI Bank will hold their annual meeting soon. Their EXCITING annual meeting!

It's little wonder then that one of the bank's major shareholders, the SM group of mall operator Henry Sy, should be preparing for it with a flurry of maneuvers.

And from where GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia (the nemesis of Henry Sy's daughter Tessie Sy-Coson in her bid to take over the bank for a song) is sitting, those SM group moves are ... well, "ominous."

It looks like the SM group wants to be certain that, in the election of the board during the next annual stockholders' meeting, what the group says goes.

Among them, at least to the Cebu hometown boy Garcia, is for the SM group to take full control of the EPCIB board.

And from there—who knows—maybe full control of the bank? Uh-oh, there goes our P20 billion in the bank!

But why does Garcia see some portentous movements in the EPCIB board lately?

A few weeks ago, in a joint undertaking between the SM group and the ever, ahh, "cooperative" SSS, the EPCIB board replaced Martin Romualdez (representing Trans Middle East) as chair with SSS president Corazon dela Paz (representing 16 million SSS members, at least on paper).

Anyway, in another expected twist of fate just a few days ago, the EPCIB corporate secretary resigned for reasons still unknown to the public—meaning, the millions of SSS and GSIS members.

From what I hear, his replacement is now the subject of another quarrel between the SM group, on one hand, and those stockholders opposed to Tessie Sy Coson's takeover, on the other, namely, the GSIS and Trans Middle East.

The SM group is nominating its own guy to the position. And just how important is the corporate secretary to a stockholder like the SM group?

Under existing rules, the corporate secretary has the last word on the validation of "proxies." In turn, "proxies" are important to any group of stockholders who do not go along well with the other shareholders.

For the SM group, its relationship with the EPCIB stockholders like the GSIS has not only turned bad. It has escalated into war.

Now, just after the corporate secretary resigned, the EPCIB board decided to remove two more members of the "nomination" committee.

They were perceived to be against the SM group's takeover scheme.

That is the same committee that screens all the candidates to the EPCIB board, including the so-called independent directors required under the law.

First to go out of the critical committee was its chair, who was none other than Romualdez, the same man who has little faith in the takeover scheme of the SM group disguised as a merger.

And who should replace him other than Dela Paz again?

After that maneuver came the ouster of EPCIB president Rene Buenaventura from the committee.

Supposedly, Buenaventura volunteered to get out of the committee because its immediate business had something to do with "shareholders' issue." Hmm.

If that is so, then the more should a professional guy like Buenaventura stay in the committee, perhaps to look after the interest of the public investors in the bank. It is a LISTED company, right?

After all, as management representative to the board, Buenaventura represents all the stockholders—small and big alike—not just the SM group, or the SSS and the GSIS.

And so those are "omens" to Garcia, who is still trying to convince the SSS to bid out its shares in the bank together with those of the GSIS.

Obviously, if the SM group has its way in the annual stockholders' meeting, it can end up with more board seats in the bank.

Today, the SM group has four seats. Word has it nevertheless that one "independent" director also seems to be working for the SM group, plus another one nominated by the SSS.

With the five board seats of the SSS, which has been, er, "sympathetic" to the SM group, Tessie Sy-Coson and company can do whatever they please with the bank.

* * *

THAT group in the real estate sector called Creba is up in arms against what it calls "historic high" prices of cement.

And the prices are high despite the generally silent construction sector. Well, this cute administration of Gloriaetta hardly does infrastructure projects, for one.

In a position paper submitted to this cute administration, Creba noted that the local cement price is now at P170 per bag—from a low of P70 per bag only four years ago when local cement companies were complaining against cement smuggling.

Today cement costs only an equivalent of P133 per bag in Malaysia, P129 in Indonesia, P119 in Vietnam, and P117 in Thailand.

Creba in effect thinks that the upsurge of the price here had something to do with shutdowns of local cement plants by their foreign owners.

Thus, Creba is supporting the move of the DTI and the BOI to include cement in the list of priority projects meriting incentives from the government.

The Creba paper said: "We urge the BOI and DTI to open the cement industry to more competition for the benefit of the consumers without delay."

Amen!

Shares up another 1.53%

From page B1

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 35.18 points to 2,340.82 after trading between 2,341.65 and 2,305.64. This was the highest close since Aug. 5, 1999, when it settled at 2,348.24.

Volume was 3.93 billion shares worth P2.5 billion.

The all-shares index rose 19.82 points to 1,451.46.

Gainers outpaced losers 85 to 21, with 41 stocks unchanged.

"Our market is going from one strength to the next," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc. "Obviously, this upward pressure is a combination of both strong earnings expectations and the country's improving fiscal outlook."

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the other day that Moody's Investors Service might upgrade its negative outlook for the Philippines' credit ratings if the government meets its fiscal targets.

Of the three major international credit-rating agencies, only Moody's has a negative outlook on the country's sovereign ratings.

"We consider Moody's behind the curve. Fiscal consolidation is the basis of our view that the Philippines, like Korea, is a re-rating story," said Tim Condon, managing director of research in Asia at ING Asset Management in Singapore.

Ayala Land jumped 75 centavos to P13.25 and parent Ayala Corp. rose P12.50 to P382.50.

PLDT gained P5 to P2,045 while rival Globe Telecom advanced P25 to P960. Both telecom firms will report their first-quarter earnings next week. AFP

Successful Business Owners and Managers Should Read This

Canadian Immigration Options and Opportunities

Your business and employment options in Canada can be infinite. Take the fast track to Canada through the Nova Scotia Nominee Program (NSNP). Learn more about this opportunity to relocate to Nova Scotia, Canada where a safe environment exists for your family and your business or career.

Our speaker is Dale Thompson, president of Canadian Professional and a Certified Canadian Immigration Consultant. Joining him is Ms. Thummy Alzona, our Client Services Officer who travels between Manila and Halifax as a Permanent Resident of Canada.

Benefits.
The NSNP is a simple, straightforward, all-inclusive program that allows you to move to Canada on your own terms. Principal Applicants can keep their business/employment interests active in the Philippines. A guaranteed management position for Business Owners and Senior Managers is included. Permanent Resident Visas for the Principal Applicant, Spouse and their dependent children. Interview in Canada within 30 days of application submission. Approval within two weeks after interview.

Qualifications.
Potential candidates must meet BOTH the following minimum requirements:
- Personal Net Worth of CAD$ 300,000
- Two (2) years of successful business ownership experience and/or senior management level experience

Briefing Locations, Dates and Times.
The immigration briefings will be held at Suite 1206, 12th Floor, Makati Cinema Square on Don Chino Roces Avenue. Attendance is FREE, however, candidates must be pre-qualified over the phone. There will be maximum of 22 seats.
- Saturday, May 6 at 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Meet Our Canadian Professionals

Dale Thompson

Thummy Alzona

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are elated to announce that our senior consultant, Mr. Dale Thompson, has recently completed and passed the full membership exam as required by the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants.

Being represented by a Licensed Immigration Consultant ensures confidentiality, and that your application is completed to the highest standards in compliance with all the rules and regulations of Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Call 811-1619 or 811-1217

then dial 108 for Ms. Thummy or 109 for Ms. Kaye
For callbacks, text your name and contact info to (0918) 572-3070
We are also available for one-on-one consultations

Canadian Professional Immigration Services, Inc.

Authorized Agent of the Nova Scotia Nominee Program in the Philippines

Schools turn bottles into bounty

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MEMBERS of Brgy. Balabag's (in Boracay) Ecological Solid Waste Management team sort out the bottles collected.

RECYCLING OF PLASTIC BOTTLES IS a game where everyone wins. Ask the students of the Heneral Pio Elementary School in Makati.

Over the past two years, they have collected close to 4,000 kilograms of plastic bottles that San Miguel Packaging Products, a division of San Miguel Corp., exchanged for a 21-inch television set, two DVD players, two digital cameras, one floor polisher, 263 boxes of Funchum and 10 boxes of assorted meat products for the school under its PET bottle recycling program.

San Miguel also sponsored last month a basketball clinic for more than 100 program participants, who got the chance to learn basketball fundamentals from veteran San Miguel players such as Cris Bolado, Joey Sta. Maria and Vince Hizon.

Creating awareness

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Similar experiences are shared by students in 650 other schools that have responded to San Miguel's call in February 2004 for people to start collecting plastic bottles, including those from other companies.

Those who heed the call not only earn from the bottles, they also become more environmentally concerned.

Oliver R. Gorrospe, business development manager of SMPP, says the collection campaign forms part of the company's plan to put up the first recycling plant for polyethylene terephthalate or PET bottles in the Philippines and Asia.

The PET recycling plant in San Fernando, Pampanga is scheduled to start operations in September this year and has the capacity to recycle 7,000 metric tons of PET bottles a year, equivalent to 144 million 1.5-liter PET bottles.

The country uses about 30,000 metric tons of PET bottles a year, equivalent to about 600 million 1.5-liter PET bottles. San Miguel accounts for about 10,000 metric tons.

Gorrospe says San Miguel decided to invest P600 million in a recycling plant not only to help solve the problem of making use of PET bottles, but also to ensure the stability of PET bottle supply for its own operations.

"San Miguel is the biggest user of PET bottles in the Philippines, that is why we took it upon ourselves to invest in a recycling plant," he explains.

The plant will clean the used PET bottles and break these down into small pieces for mixing with "virgin" PET to come up with new bottles, which are used for San Miguel's beverages and products.

These include the packaging for Coca-Cola products, Wilkins and Safety First water bottles, Nutrioil cooking oil and Supremo vinegar.

The other parts of the bottles, such as the labels and caps, will be brought to other plants for possible recycling.

Gorrospe, however, stresses that the plant will use not only the PET bottles from San Miguel, but also those from other companies.

Recycled bottle 10% cheaper

He says the PET bottle recycling plant will enable San Miguel to use 20 percent recycled PET plastic in its products. With this, the bottle can be recycled as many times as possible without compromising the quality of the bottles.

He says the resulting plastic resin will be 10 percent cheaper than if San Miguel used pure "virgin" resin.

"There are also the benefits of foreign exchange savings and stability of local supply."

Gorrospe says that with the memorandum of agreement forged by San Miguel with the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources and Education, the company solves the problem of supply by tapping the public school students.

Makati is top collector

Under the program, San Miguel will pay the schools for their collected PET bottles in kind, not cash.

"It is the schools that tell us what they want in exchange for the PET bottles that they collect," Gorrospe says.

"The most interesting request we got so far was a school trip to Enchanted Kingdom."

Makati has been the top collector among the local government units, followed by Cebu and Davao.

Gorrospe adds that San Miguel has embarked on a campaign to encourage junkyards all over the country to join in the PET bottle collection campaign.

Gorrospe says this is part of San Miguel's long-term goal to eventually use 100 percent recycled plastic for its packaging materials.

Gov't steps up efforts to create 1.5M jobs/yr

Bringing the right jobs to job seekers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS teamed up with Asia's largest online recruitment network in an effort to create up to 1.5 million jobs a year in the next five years.

Under the partnership, the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Job Creation and JobsDB.com will jointly conduct several jobs fairs in the metropolis. The first of which, the two-day Career and Education Fair 2006, opened yesterday at the World Trade Center.

Jayjay Viray, JobsDB.com managing director, said 70,000 jobs were available at the fair, which some 20,000 seekers were expected to visit.

"This is a very big event in terms of those numbers, but we are also preparing for smaller fairs that would be held in areas closer to the heart of communities," Viray said.

She added that the partners were expected to hold job fairs at 18 sites in the metropolis, including the Baseco area and two other venues in Manila.

Also, Secretary Arthur Yap, Presidential Adviser for Job Creation, said in an interview that various line agencies had "downloaded" billions of funds meant for efforts that were "job-creation biased."

Yap said a total of P23 billion has been released to pump-prime the economy through projects that would open up opportunities for work and livelihood.

He said that amount forms part of the P35-billion worth of budget "savings" that the national government realized last year when the deficit spending reached only P145 billion, or way below the P180-billion target for 2005.

"An additional P500 million was (disbursed) for road development projects in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and mainland Southern Tagalog," Yap said. "This is basically road clearing work and 16,000 jobs are expected to be opened up."

The former agriculture secretary said more jobs were expected to be created as the National Irrigation Administration embarked on a P4-billion effort to rehabilitate water services for 300,000 hectares of farm land.

"Another P500 million was released to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for training vouchers to be granted to job hunters who want to work in call centers," Yap added.

Further, Yap said his office was pushing for the relaxation of lending rules covering micro, small and mid-sized enterprises.

"Last year alone, 930,000 jobs were created as a total of P42 billion in MSME lending funds were released, he said. "If more MSMEs could gain access to funds, the sector can make between 1.3 million and 1.4 million jobs this year."

In tourism, at least 3 million jobs can be created this year based on the Department of Tourism's projection that between 2.5 million and 3 million tourists would visit the country.

"There are many jobs out there and the challenge is how to bring the appropriate jobs to the job seekers," Yap said. "During the National Manpower Summit held last March, the private sector forecast about 500,000 openings this year so the important strategy would be to facilitate job-matching."

Call ELITE's New No. 722-8888
- TIME LAPSE MACHINE
- MEDIA DESTROYER
- MONEY COUNTER
- CHECK WRITER
- FAX MACHINES

SPECIAL PRICE

OFFICE CHECK WRITER
- LCD Display
- Built In Five Different Currency Symbols
DB-310 P4,950

OFFICE MEDIA DESTROYER MD-800
– Shreds papers, CDs, floppy disks and credit cards
Shred Type: Cross-Cut
Shred Width: 4 x 32 mm
P7,450

CURRENCY COUNTER OFFICE MR-05IE
- Heavy Duty Features
- Best for Banking Systems, Foreign Currency Changers, etc.
P11,500

SANYO TIME LAPSE MACHINE
24-HRS. TIME RECORDING
GTL-924
Good for CCTV SYSTEMS
P8,500

PLAIN-PAPER FAX MACHINES olivetti
- Bubble Ink-Jet Technology
- Affordable Ink-Cartridge
FAX-LAB 210 P7,950
OFX-560 P6,950

SAME PRICE NATIONWIDE
DEALERS ARE WELCOME
www.elitemachinesinc.com

Exclusive Distributor:
ELITE MACHINES, INC.

1485 Golden Building,
E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City
(BESIDE KAMUNING BRIDGE)
CALL 722-8888

G/F, LRDC Bldg.,
22 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City
8877238 /56 /68 /80 /55 /56
8860698

Rm. 301 Pacific Bldg.,
400 Quintin Paredes corner
Gandara Sts., Binondo, Manila
2476012 • 2474038 /31 /32 /33
Fax: 2473802

Espiritu Building,
33 Gen. Maxilom Ave.,
Cebu City
(032) 2336711 to 18
Fax: (032) 2336718 to 25

GOLDSTAR
Door 2, Lua Bldg., Quirino Ave. cor. J.P. Laurel St., Davao City
Tel: (082) 2270321-23 Fax: (082) 2270321

KYOCERA
THE NEW VALUE FRONTIER

POWER AND COST EFFICIENCY REDISCOVERED

Workgroup
The affordable A3 multifunctional designed to grow with your needs.

KM-1650
- 16 pages per minute in A4, 8 pages per minute in A3
- Time to first copy less than 5.9 seconds, warm-up time 20 seconds or less
- Standard network printing
- 350-sheet paper capacity as standard, upgradeable to 1,250 sheets
- Fax and scan functions (optional)
- Duplex document processor (optional) and duplex unit (optional)
- Long-life components, easy maintenance

Personal
The smallest digital copier in its class with the lowest total cost.

KM-1500
- 15 cpm digital copier
- 600 dpi laser technology
- First copy in less than 9.5 seconds
- Standard 16MB memory support to scan-once-print-many and electronic sort
- 50-sheet automatic document feeder as option
- 250-sheet paper cassette and 60-sheet bypass as standard
- Long-life drum keeps your operating costs low
- Environment-friendly

Departmental
The true multifunctional that will maximize your workflow efficiency.

KM-3035
- 30 pages per minute in A4, 20 pages per minute in A3
- First copy time is 3.9 seconds
- Warm up time is 25 seconds or less
- Paper capacity of up to 4,200 sheets
- Duplex unit as standard
- Impressive finishing (4 optional finishers)
- Powerful print controller (Power PC 750 CX / 500 MHz)
- Long-life components, easy maintenance
- Lowest cost per page in its class
- User-friendly operations

SALES OFFICE 1407 PETRONA 1 BLDG. ANGONO COR. OSMEÑA STS. MAKATI CITY
TEL. # +63 2 899-8421 FAX # +63 2 899-8423
website: www.philcopy.net email: info@philcopy.net

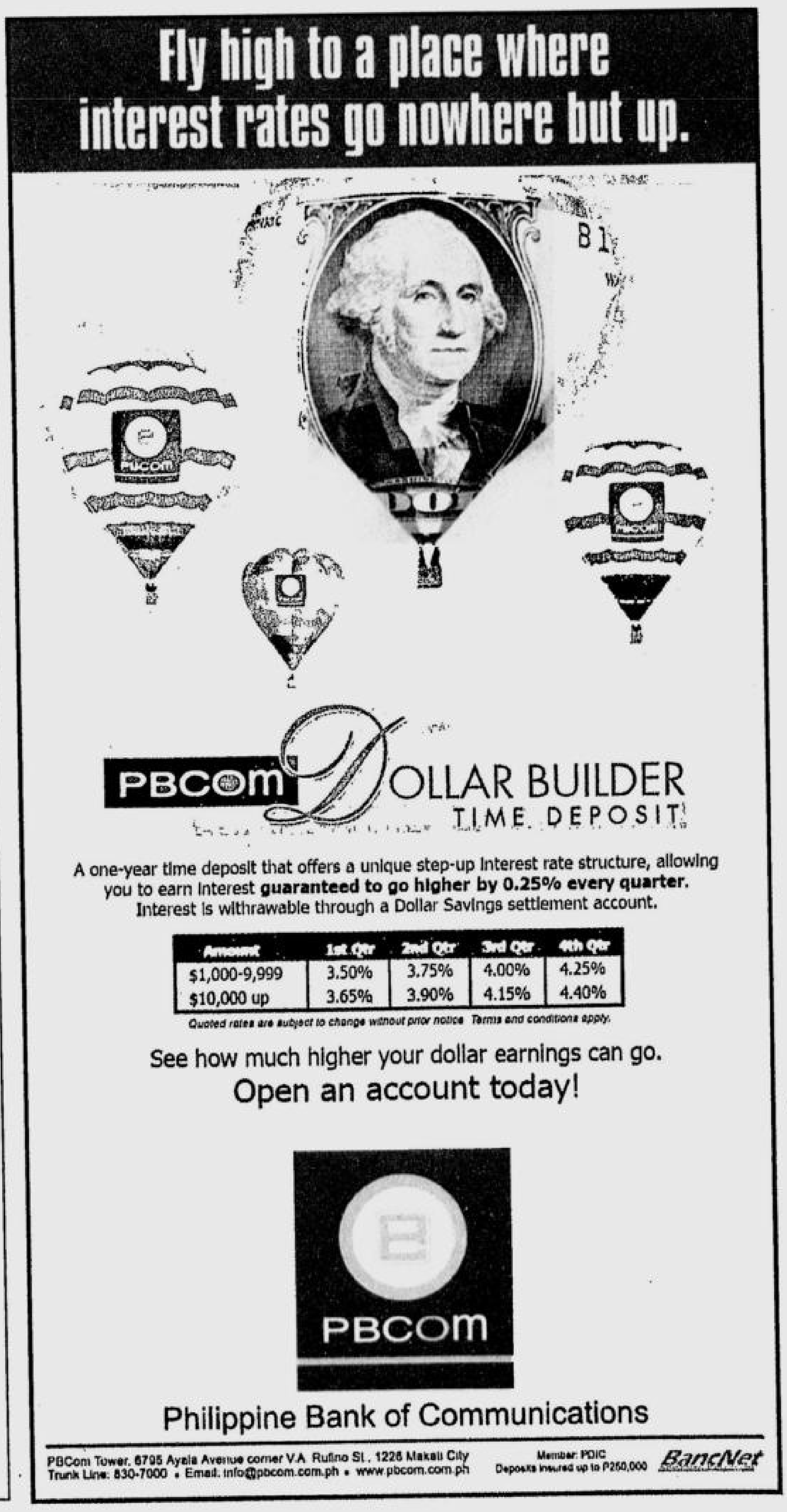
PHILCOPY
The Power to Multiply
25 Years

METRO MANILA SHOWROOMS :
• SM MEGAMALL TELEFAX # +63 2 635-5934 • SM NORTHMALL TEL. # +63 2 926-8019 • MEDICAL PLAZA TEL. # +63 2 687-2084
• LAS PIÑAS TEL.# +63 2 800-5791 to 93 • SM FAIRVIEW TEL.# +63 2 938 5089

LUZON BRANCHES:
- DAGUPAN TEL. # +63 75 523-1304
- MALOLOS TEL. # +63 44 790-0001
- LIPA TEL. # +63 43 756-5687
- LEGASPI TEL # +63 52 480-9716
- PUERTO PRINCESA TEL. # +63 48 433-7180
- ANGELES TEL. # +63 45 888-3672
- OLONGAPO TEL. # +63 47 223-2391
- LUCENA TEL. # +63 42 373-7839
- NAGA TELEFAX # +63 54 811-7374
- SM PAMPANGA TEL. # 63 45 963-94-88

VISAYAS BRANCHES:
- CEBU (Mandaue)
  TEL. # +63 32 344-7884 TO 88
- ORMOC
  TELEFAX # +63 53 255-2956
- TACLOBAN
  TELEFAX # +63 53 523-7819
- TAGBILARAN
  TELEFAX # +63 38 235-5271

MINDANAO BRANCHES:
- DAVAO TEL. # +63 82 222-4536
- SM DAVAO TEL # +63 82 297-8474
- PAGADIAN TELEFAX # +63 62 214-3577
- CAGAYAN DE ORO - LIMKETKAI TEL. # +63 88 856-5550
- DAVAO - VICTORIA PLAZA TEL # +63 82 222-2177
- ZAMBOANGA TEL # +63 62 991-3607
- CAGAYAN DE ORO TEL # +63 88 856-5118
- BUTUAN TEL. # +63 85 342-5572



Fly high to a place where interest rates go nowhere but up.

PBCOM DOLLAR BUILDER TIME DEPOSIT

A one-year time deposit that offers a unique step-up interest rate structure, allowing you to earn interest **guaranteed to go higher by 0.25% every quarter.** Interest is withrawable through a Dollar Savings settlement account.

Amount	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
$1,000-9,999	3.50%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%
$10,000 up	3.65%	3.90%	4.15%	4.40%

Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice. Terms and conditions apply.

See how much higher your dollar earnings can go.
Open an account today!

PBCOM
Philippine Bank of Communications

PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., 1226 Makati City
Trunk Line: 830-7000 • Email: info@pbcom.com.ph • www.pbcom.com.ph
Member: PDIC
Deposits insured up to P250,000
BancNet

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS OF PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 22, 2006 PLEBISCITES TO RATIFY THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF UNGKAYA PUKAN AND AL-BARKA OUT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIPO TIPO, BASILAN, AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HADJI MOHAMMAD AJUL AND AKBAR OUT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN, BASILAN PURSUANT TO MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NOS. 190, 191, 192 AND 193 PASSED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO ON 20 DECEMBER 2005

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	**Chairman**
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	**Commissioner**
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.,	**Commissioner**
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	**Commissioner**
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	**Commissioner**

Promulgated: 2 May 2006

x- -x

RESOLUTION NO. 7659

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7160), Republic Act No. 7166, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections RESOLVED to adopt, as it hereby RESOLVES to adopt, the following Calendar of Activities and Periods on Prohibited Acts for the May 22, 2006 plebiscites to ratify the creation of the municipalities of Ungkaya Pukan and Al-Barka out of the municipality of Tipo Tipo, Basilan, and the municipalities of Hadji Mohammad Ajul and Akbar out of the municipality of Tuburan, Basilan, pursuant to MMA Act No. 190, 191, 192 and 193, passed by the RLA, ARMM on 20 December 2005, to wit:

DATE/PERIOD	PLEBISCITE ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
May 1, 2006 (MON) to May 25, 2006 (THU)	**PLEBISCITE PERIOD**	1. Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32 R.A. No. 7166; 2. Suspension of elective local officials, (Sec. 261 (x) OEC); 3. Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service. (Sec. 261 (h) OEC); 4. Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces, (Sec. 261 (u) OEC).
May 1, 2006 (MON) to May 22, 2006 (MON)	[illegible]	1. Appointment or hiring of new employees. Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 2. Creation or filling up of new positions. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 3. Promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 4. Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds. (Sec. 261 (w) OEC); 5. Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development. (Sec. 261 (v) OEC); 6. Appointment or use of special policemen, special/confidential agents or the like. (Sec. 261 (m) OEC); 7. Use of armored land, water or aircraft. (Sec. 261 (r) OEC); 8. Wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms. (Sec. 261 (s) OEC).
May 1, 2006 (MON) to May 20, 2006 (SAT)	**CAMPAIGN PERIOD**	
May 8, 2006 (WED)	Submission to Comelec of complete list of all special policemen, special/confidential agents or persons performing similar functions in the employ of barangay chairman, municipal mayor or any appointing authority. Last day for appointment of members of Plebiscite Committees	
May 1, 2006 (MON) to May 22, 2006 (MON)	Posting of the Certified List of Voters as of the May 10 2004 elections.	
May 21, 2006 (SUN)	Inspection of Polling Places	Liquor Ban (starting 12 Midnight.) – Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC).
May 22, 2006 (MON)	**PLEBISCITE DAY**	1. Cockfighting, and other forms of gambling, holding fairs, boxing and/or any other similar sports. (Sec. 261 (dd) OEC)] 2. Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC). 3. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving, or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC). 4. Opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise, refreshment, etc. within 30 meters radius from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd) (2) OEC).
May 25, 2006 (THU)	**LAST DAY OF PLEBISCITE PERIOD**	

Let this Resolution be published by the Education and Information Department (EID) in a newspaper of general circulation, and in a newspaper with local circulation in the Municipalities of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan. The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Director of ARMM; the Provincial Election Supervisor of Basilan and the Election Officers of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Secretary of the Department of Education; the Governor of Basilan; the Municipal Mayors and Municipal Treasurers of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, and the DepEd Supervisors of Basilan, with a copy of this Resolution.

The Election Officers of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, shall give this Resolution the widest publication in their municipalities.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its promulgation.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF THE MAY 22, 2006 PLEBISCITES TO RATIFY THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF UNGKAYA PUKAN AND AL-BARKA OUT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIPO TIPO, BASILAN, AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF HADJI MOHAMMAD AJUL AND AKBAR OUT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN, BASILAN, PURSUANT TO MUSLIM MINDANAO AUTONOMY ACT NOS. 190, 191, 192, AND 193, PASSED BY THE REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO ON 20 DECEMBER 2005.

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	**Chairman**
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	**Commissioner**
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.,	**Commissioner**
BRAWNER, Romeo A.	**Commissioner**
SARMIENTO, Rene V.	**Commissioner**

Promulgated: 2 May 2006

x- -x

RESOLUTION NO. 7660

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by the Constitution, the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7160), Republic Act No. 7166, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections **RESOLVED** to promulgate, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to promulgate, the following rules and regulations to govern the conduct of the May 22, 2006 plebiscite, to ratify the creation of the municipalities of Ungkaya Pukan and Al-Barka out of the municipality of Tipo Tipo, Basilan, and the municipalities of Hadji Mohammad Ajul and Akbar out of the municipality of Tuburan, Basilan pursuant to MMA Act Nos. 190, 191, 192 and 193, passed by the RLA, ARMM on 20 December 2005.

SEC. 1. Supervision and control - The Commission on Elections shall have direct control and supervision over the conduct of the plebiscite.

SEC. 2. Expenses and election forms and paraphernalia - The expenses in holding the plebiscite, which shall include the printing of official ballots, plebiscite returns and other forms; the procurement of supplies and paraphernalia; the per diems of the members of the Plebiscite Committees, the overtime compensation of the Plebiscite Boards of Canvassers and their support staff; other operational and incidental expenses; and the costs of publication of resolutions and information materials, shall be borne by Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan. For this purpose, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations (ODEDO) shall require the Election Officers of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, to prepare the budgetary requirements of their respective offices; submit the budgets for the holding of the plebiscite; and require the proponents to immediately appropriate and remit the necessary amount.

The Committees on Allocation, Printing, Reception and Verification, Packing and Shipping, Election and Barangay Affairs Department and Administrative Services Department shall prepare their itemized administrative, operational and technical budgetary needs, which shall be reviewed and consolidated by the ODEDO, and shall submit the same to the Commission *En Banc*, through the Office of the Executive Director, for final review and approval.

SEC. 3. Posting of Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act (MMAA) Nos. 190, 191, 192, and 193 - At least ten (10) days prior to the day of the plebiscite, the EOs of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan shall cause the posting of copies of:

- Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act (MMAA) No. 190 passed by the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA), Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on 20 December 2005, entitled "An Act Creating the Municipality of Ungkaya Pukan in the Province of Basilan and for Other Purposes";
- MMA Act No. 191, passed by the RLA, ARMM on 20 December 2005, entitled "An Act Creating the Municipality of Al-Barka in the Province of Basilan and for Other Purposes";
- MMA Act No. 192, passed by the RLA, ARMM on 20 December 2005, entitled "An Act Creating the Municipality of Hadji Mohammad Ajul in the Province of Basilan and for Other Purposes"; and
- MMA Act No. 193, passed by the RLA ARMM on 20 December 2005, entitled "An Act Creating the Municipality of Akbar in the Province of Basilan and for Other Purposes."

in all polling places of the municipalities of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan.

SEC 4. Information campaign - An objective information campaign shall be conducted in the whole of the municipalities of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, to commence on May 1, 2006 up to May 20, 2006. During this period, civic, professional, religious, business, youth and any other similar organizations may hold symposia, public rallies or meetings to enlighten the voters of the two (2) barangays on the plebiscite issues, and to campaign for or against the ratification of MMAA Nos. 190, 191, 192, and 193. Constructive discussions and debates shall be encouraged and the voters assured of the freedom to voice their opinion regarding the issues, advantages or disadvantages thereof.

The EOs of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, in coordination with the local government officials, mass media, NGOs and religious groups shall convene barangay assemblies or *"pulong-pulongs"* for such constructive discussions and debates.

SEC. 5. Date of plebiscite and voting hours - The plebiscite shall be held on May 22, 2006 (Monday). The voting shall start at seven o'clock in the morning and end at three o'clock in the afternoon.

SEC. 6. Area of coverage - The plebiscite shall be held in the whole of the municipalities of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan.

SEC 7. Who may vote - All qualified voters of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, duly registered as of the May 10, 2004 Elections, including those whose applications for registration and/or transfer of registration records have been approved by the Election Registration Boards as of the last quarterly ERB hearing on January 16, 2006, are entitled to vote in the plebiscite.

The EOs of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, shall prepare the lists of voters for use in the plebiscite in accordance with Section 12 hereof.

SEC 8. Plebiscite Committee Composition, Compensation, Duties and Functions - The voting and counting of votes shall be conducted in each polling place by a Plebiscite Committee (Committee) composed of a Chairman, a Poll Clerk and a Third Member who shall all be public school teachers, to be appointed by the Commission through the Election Officers.

Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to a per diem of One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) for services rendered on the day of the plebiscite.

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) Supervise and conduct the voting in the polling place on May 22, 2006;
(b) Count the votes and thereafter prepare the plebiscite returns and other required documents/reports and distribute the same as herein provided;
(c) Furnish watchers certificate of votes upon request;
(d) Return the book/s of voters to the EO, through the principal of the polling centers, and deliver the other plebiscite paraphernalia to their respective custodians for safekeeping not later than May 22, 2006;
(e) Act as deputies of the Commission in the supervision and control of the plebiscite in the polling places wherein they are assigned to ensure the holding of free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible plebiscite;
(f) Maintain order within the polling place and its premises, to keep access thereto, open and unobstructed, and to enforce obedience to its lawful orders.

If any person shall refuse to obey lawful orders of the Committee or shall conduct himself in a disorderly manner in its presence or within its hearing thereby interrupting or disturbing its proceedings, the Committee may issue an order in writing directing any peace officer to take such person into custody until the adjournment of the meeting, but such order shall not be executed as to prevent the person so taken into custody from exercising his right to vote. Such order shall be executed by any peace officer to whom it may be delivered, but if none is present, by any other person deputized by the Committee in writing; and

(g) Perform such other functions/duties as may be prescribed by the Commission.

SEC. 9. Disqualifications - (a) No person shall serve as chairman or member of the Committee if he is related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any member of the same Committee.

(b) No member of the Committee shall engage, directly or indirectly, in any partisan political activity or take part in the plebiscite, except to discharge his duties as such, and to vote, provided he is a registered voter of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan.

SEC. 10. Precincts and polling places - For purposes of the May 22, 2006 Plebiscite, the precincts established as of May 10, 2004 Elections shall be adopted, subject to the provisions of Section 11 hereof.

The location of polling places designated in the May 10, 2004 Elections shall be maintained, with such changes as the Commission may authorize, after notice and hearing to the interested parties in the political unit affected: *Provided*, that no location of polling place shall be changed within fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the day of the plebiscite except when it its destroyed or it cannot be used.

SEC. 11. Clustering of Precincts - To obviate problems on insufficiency of Committees and polling places, the EOs of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan shall group (cluster) precincts in accordance with the following guidelines:

(a) The number of precincts in a group (cluster) shall not be more than two (2);
(b) The aggregate number of votes in a group shall not exceed four hundred (400);
(c) The precincts in a group shall belong to the same territory, same polling center and same barangay;
(d) The individual precinct numbers and list of voters of the precincts in a group shall be maintained separately. In no case shall they be combined; and
(e) The ballots for the precincts in a group shall be deposited in one ballot box and that one Plebiscite Committee shall be assigned for each group of precinct or precinct cluster.

SEC. 12. Precinct Level Computerized Voters List (PCVL) - The Election Officers shall print six (6) copies of PCVL which shall be certified by the Election Registration Board (ERB). The two (2) copies of the PCVL shall be given to the Committees for use on plebiscite day. The other four (4) copies of the PCVL shall be distributed as follows:

(a) One copy for posting at the Office of the Election Officer;
(b) One copy for posting at the bulletin boards of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan;
(c) One copy for the National Central File, Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila; and
(d) One copy for the Provincial File, Office of the Provincial Election Supervision or Basilan.

SEC. 13. Distribution of Plebiscite Forms and Supplies - The Municipal Treasurers shall, in coordination with the Election Officers concerned, distribute the plebiscite forms and supplies to the Committees. The EO or his authorized representatives shall release the Books of Voters and the PCVL to the School Principal concerned who shall in turn release them to the Plebiscite Committees.

SEC 14. Official ballots - The official ballots shall be distributed at the ratio of one ballot per voter.

For Tipo Tipo, Basilan, the official ballots to be used in the plebiscite shall bear the following heading **"OFFICIAL BALLOT"; "PLEBISCITE"; "MAY 22, 2006"; "TIPO TIPO, BASILAN"**; and underneath the following instructions: **"Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot."**

The following question shall be provided in the official ballots:

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF UNGKAYA PUKAN, COMPRISING BARANGAYS AMALOY, BOHEPAHU, BAHESUYAK, UPPER KABANGALAN, DANIT, KAMAMBURINGAN, MATATA, MATERLING, PIPIL, SUNGKAYUT, TONGBATO AND ULITAN, OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIPO TIPO BASILAN, PURSUANT TO MMAA NO. 190?" ☐

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF AL-BARKA, COMPRISING BARANGAYS APIL APIL, BATO BATO, BOHE PIANG, BUCALAO, CAMBUG, DANAPAH, GUIANANTA, KAILIH. KINUKUTAN, KUHUN, KUHUN-LENNU, LINUAN, MACALANG, MAGCAWA, KINUKUTAN, SANGKAHAN, AND LOOKBISAYA, OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TIPO TIPO BASILAN, PURSUANT TO MMAA NO. 191"? ☐

For Tuburan, Basilan the official ballots to be used in the plebiscite shall bear the following heading **"OFFICIAL BALLOT"; "PLEBISCITE"; "MAY 22, 2006"; "TUBURAN, BASILAN"**; and underneath the following instructions: **"Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive mark on any part of this ballot."**

The following question shall be provided in the official ballots:

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HADJI MOHAMMAD AJUL, COMPRISING BARANGAYS BASAKAN, BUTON, CANDIIS, LANGGONG, LANGIL, LANGUYAN, PINTASAN, SULUTAN, MATANGAL, TUBURAN PROPER, SERONGGON, AND SIBAGO ISLAND, OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN, BASILAN, PURSUANT TO MMAA NO. 192"? ☐

"DO YOU APPROVE OF THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF AKBAR COMPRISING BARANGAYS CADDAYAN, LINONGAN ISLAND, LOWER BATO BATO, UPPER BATO BATO, PAGUENGAN, SEMUT, MANGUSU, MANGALUT AND UPPER SINANGKAPAN OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBURAN, BASILAN, PURSUANT TO MMAA NO. 193"? ☐

SEC. 15. Plebiscite Board of Canvassers - There shall be one (1) Plebiscite Board of Canvassers (PBC) each for Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, which shall canvass the plebiscite returns submitted by the Committees. The PBC shall each be composed of the incumbent City/Municipal Election Officer or a lawyer of the Commission, as Chairman; and as members, the City/Municipality Treasurer and the DepEd City Superintendent/District Supervisor, subject to Sec. 16 hereof.

At least five (5) days before the day of the plebiscite, the Chairman shall issue a written notice to the other members of the PBC that it shall convene at four o'clock in the afternoon of plebiscite day to canvass the plebiscite returns. Notice of said meeting shall be posted in conspicuous places in the City/Municipal Halls and other public places in Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan. The PBCs shall each meet at the Session Halls of the City/Municipal Hall Buildings not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of plebiscite day and shall immediately canvass the plebiscite returns and shall not adjourn until the canvass is completed.

SEC. 16. Other Rules and Regulations on Plebiscites - The applicable provisions of Resolution No. 5923 dated January 29, 2003, re Rules and Regulations that governed the conduct of the February 4, 2003 plebiscite that ratified the creation of Barangay Pulung Bulu, San Fernando City, Pampanga, shall be adopted, particularly on the following:

a) Preliminaries to the Counting of Votes.
b) Manner of Counting of Votes.
c) Appreciation of Ballots.
d) Plebiscite Returns and Distribution of Copies Thereof.
e) Announcement of Results.
f) Alterations and Corrections of Plebiscite Returns.
g) Certificates of Votes.
h) Delivery of the Ballot Boxes, and Other Supplies and Documents, Preservation of Voting Records, Ballot Boxes and their Keys, and their Disposition.
i) Supervision and Control over the Plebiscite Board of Canvassers.
    - Absence of a Regular Member
    - Incapacitated Regular Member.
    - Substitution of Chairman and Members.
    - Prohibition Against Leaving Official Station.
    - Quorum.
j) Watchers, their Rights and Duties.
k) Right to be Present and to Counsel of Proponents and Oppositors.
l) Internal Canvassing Procedures.
m) Minutes of the Canvass of the PBC.
n) Completion of the Canvass.
o) Preparation and distribution of the Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation (COCP).
p) Applicability of the Omnibus Election Code and Other Election Laws.

SEC. 17. Implementation - The Executive Director, assisted by the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Directors of the Election and Barangay Affairs Department, Finance Services Department, and Administrative Services Department, shall implement this Resolution to ensure the holding of a free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible plebiscite.

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations in coordination with the Regional Election Director or ARMM and the Provincial Election Supervision of Basilan, shall supervise the conduct of the plebiscite.

SEC. 18. Dissemination - The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this Resolution in one (1) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines and one (1) local newspaper and give it the widest publication and dissemination possible.

Let this Resolution be published by the Education and Information Department (EID) in a newspaper of general circulation, and in a newspaper with local circulation in Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan. The Deputy Executive Director for Operations shall furnish the Regional Election Director of ARMM; the Provincial Election Supervisor of Basilan; and the Election Officers of Tipo Tipo and Tubura, Basilan; the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government; the Secretary of the Department of Education; and the Municipal Mayors, Municipal Treasurers and the DepEd Supervisor of Tipo Tipo and Tuburan, Basilan, with a copy of this Resolution.

The Election Officers of Tipo Tipo and of Tuburan, Basilan shall give this Resolution the widest publication in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

SEC. 19. Effectivity - This Resolution shall take effect upon its publication.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

(PDI - May 4, 2006)

Federal Mindanao: Land of promise, land of jobs

(1st of 2 parts)

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

MINDANAO IS RICH IN NATURAL resources. A third of our land is planted to major crops—accounting for 100 percent of local cacao production, 91 percent of pineapples, more than 50 percent of coconut, coffee and corn, and, of course, the pomelos, mangosteens, rambutans, lanzones plus lots of vegetables.

Our bananas contribute $79.5 million in export receipts; fresh pineapples, $33.5 million and tuna, $22.3 million.

It is no wonder that we contribute more than 40 percent of the Philippines' food requirements and account for more than 30 percent of national food trade.

Mindanao is the second largest island in the Philippines. With a land area of 102,043 square kilometers, it occupies one-third of the Philippines' total land area and is larger than a number of Asian countries, including Taiwan or Singapore.

We have rich mineral resources and one will find nearly half of the country's gold reserves in the island. Our metallic deposits include lead, zinc, ore, iron, copper, chromite, magnetite and gold. Nonmetallic mineral resources include marble, salt, sand, gravel, silica, clay and limestone.

Cultural diversity and its natural beauty make Mindanao one of Asia's favored tourist destinations. Recently, we had weekly flights from Davao to the territory of Palau. The white sand beaches, scenic volcanoes, vast orchid gardens, and various ethnic festivals are only some of our unique tourist attractions. Our tourist arrival record was at two million from January to July 2005, posting about 25 percent increase from previous year's level.

Businesses, investments

The investments registered by the Phividec Industrial Authority in Cagayan de Oro City reached P1.07 billion in the first four months of the year, up 142 percent from P0.44 billion in the same period last year. Twelve projects had been approved by the Board of Investments and PIA. These are expected to create 1,094 jobs, up 45 percent from the 754 last year.

Foreign investors' equity infusion increased to P667 million from only P13 million, while equity from Filipino businessmen rose 11 percent to P406 million from P365 million.

Most of the approved investments came from livestock/poultry and feeds; processed foods and beverages; refrigeration/storage services; motor vehicle parts and components manufacturing, and iron ore production.

The iron ore manufacturing sector got 49 percent of the approved projects this year. This sector also got the bulk of foreign equity-investments this year boosted by the P520-million infusion by Japanese-owned Philippine Sinter Corp. located at Phividec in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental.

Investments in processed foods and beverages sector grew by 20 percent to P256 million in January-April this year from P213 million in the same period last year.

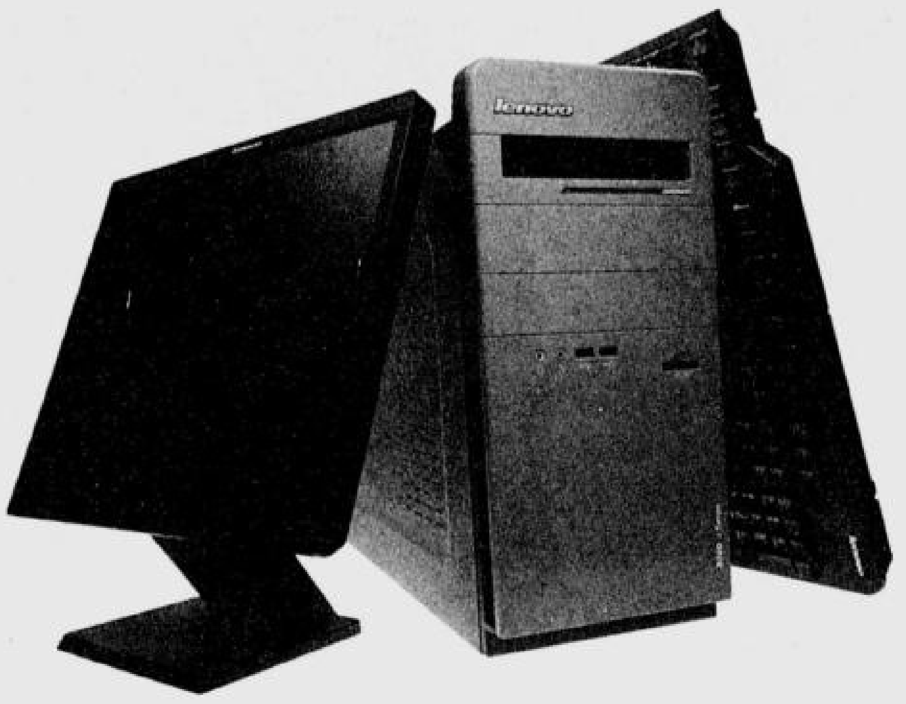
The livestock, poultry and feeds sector posted P203 million-worth of investments, up from last year's P69 million. Refrigeration services sector accounted for 5 percent of the total and motor vehicle parts, 3 percent.

Employment in the island

We have a total labor force of 8.2 million—95 percent are working or gainfully employed while five percent or 430,000 are unemployed. Due to our robust agriculture based economy, our employment rate is higher by two percentage points than the country's 92.7 percent. The majority of our workers are in the agriculture sector, followed by services and manufacturing. This is mainly due to the bright and upbeat performance of the economy despite the oil price increases. As to be expected, the resiliency of Mindanao withstood the pressures of the environment

(2nd part—The Promise of Federalism)

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao, chair of Mindanaworld Foundation Inc., Mindanao representative to the Export Development Council, and chair of Joji Ilagan Foundation. E-mail comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)



Lenovo recommends Windows® XP Professional.

intel® Pentium® 4 inside

WORKS FOR YOU.
DOESN'T CREATE MORE WORK FOR YOU.

Do emails, surf the web, chat with friends. No worries.

The Lenovo 3000 J100 desktop.

IT'S IMMUNE TO VIRUSES
Bounces back from viruses at the touch of a button.

IT'S SELF-RELIANT
Updates its own software and tunes itself up to stay fast and automatically.

IT'S EASY TO HOOK UP
Printers, scanners, networks, wireless. Gets connected, stays connected.

IT'S FAST AND POWERFUL
Comes with Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with HT Technology.

NEW WORLD. NEW THINKING™.

lenovo.com/3000/ph/offers

Lenovo 3000 J100 Tower
1-Button System Recovery
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
system features
Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor 3.0GHz (800 MHz FSB, 2MB Cache)
Windows® XP Home
512MB, 160GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
17" TFT Display, Integrated SiS Mirage Graphics, Realtec 10/100 Ethernet (NIC), SiS 661FX Chipset, External Speakers, Lenovo Care Software Tools, Corel Word Perfect Office Suite, Google Desktop, Google Tool Bar
1 year Parts & Labor On-Site Warranty
PHP55,595† (8253D1A)

Lenovo 3000 J100 Tower
1-Button System Recovery
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
system features
Intel® Celeron® Processor 3.06GHz (533 MHz FSB, 256KB Cache)
Windows® XP Home
256MB, 80GB HDD
CD-RW/DVD-ROM Combo Drive
17" TFT Display, Integrated SiS Mirage Graphics, Realtec 10/100 Ethernet (NIC), SiS 661FX Chipset, External Speakers, Lenovo Care Software Tools, Corel Word Perfect Office Suite, Google Desktop, Google Tool Bar
1 year Parts & Labor On-Site Warranty
PHP46,195† (8253B1A)

Lenovo 3000 N100 Notebook
1-Button System Recovery
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
system features
Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology
- Intel® Core Duo T2400 Processor (1.83GHz)
- Intel® PRO/Wireless 802.11 a/b/g
Windows® XP Home
512MB, 80GB HDD
DVDRW/CDRW Rambo Drive
14" WXGA (1280x768) TFT LCD (Vibrant View) display, Intel® GMA 950, Lenovo Care Software Tools, Corel Word Perfect Office Suite, Google Desktop, Google Tool Bar, Integrated Fingerprint Reader, Integrated 1.3 Megapixel Camera, 4 USB 2.0, S-Video Out, IEEE 1394, 4-in-1 Media Reader
1 year parts & labor (system battery: 1 year) Customer Carry-In Repair
FREE Lenovo Messenger Carrying Case
PHP101,395† (068954A)

Complement your Lenovo 3000 desktop and notebook with the following options:
- 256MB PC3200 DDR SDRAM (73P2685) **PHP2,995†**
- 512MB PC3200 DDR SDRAM (73P2686) **PHP5,695†**
- 1GB PC3200 DDR SDRAM (22P9272) **PHP9,695†**
- ThinkPlus WSU – 3 years parts, 1 year labor & 1 year on-site (41E9816) **PHP2,095†**
- ThinkPlus WSU – 3 years parts, 1 year labor & 1 year on-site (41E9816) **PHP3,495†**

For every purchase of Lenovo 3000 J100 Tower, get a FREE headset and webcam.

Contact our Preferred Resellers today!
lenovo.com/3000/ph/offers

lenovo™

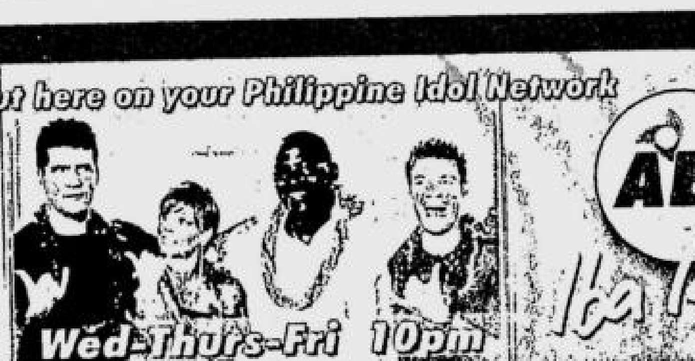
Preferred Resellers: Digital Exchange 7529888; 7528650 • Microstation 6372785; 7211252; 7254604; 7250471; 7250653 • Ng Khai Development Corporation (032) 3462926 • Silicon Valley Computer Center 3716868; 8079372; 8126734; 6331723; 9275698 • Thinking Tools (032) 3438884 • Villman Computer Systems, Inc. 9290411; 8922222; 6830532/33; 8167678; 8434371/72

*Virus recovery button: can help restore system to previously saved uninfected state; does not include anti-virus software. Limited Warranty: Support unrelated to a warranty issue may be subject to additional charges. Lenovo makes no representation or warranty regarding third-party products or services. Trademarks: Lenovo and the Lenovo logo are trademarks of Lenovo. Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel SpeedStep, Intel Viiv, Intel Xeon, Itanium, Itanium Inside, Pentium, Pentium Inside, the Centrino logo, the Intel logo and the Intel Inside logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. © 2006 Lenovo. All rights reserved. †While stocks last. Visit www.lenovo.com/safecomputing periodically for the latest information on safe and effective computing

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, May 4, 2006


American Idol
Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2353 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	Volleyball League				Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	AI Results Show	Dokyu		Billboard On-Air
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Pinoy Big Brother	Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Panday	Wonderful Life	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season II)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The 4400		PSI Factor (Season III)		Fear Factor (Season V)		Ripley's Believe It or Not					
Cartoon Network	Polka Academy	Richie Rich	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Wild Force	PokeMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinemax				Balmain Boys			Sleepers					Locusts			Missing In Action			Japanese Story (11:10PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Inside The Middle East	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Crossing Jordan		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	North Mission Road	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		What Should You Do?		The Closer		Prison Break	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven That's So Trendy Week	Wonderful World Of Disney			Tutenstein	Lizzie McGuire	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Wheelchair Billiards		Pro Billiards '03 Sudden Death 7-Ball		Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia		In The Driver's Seat	NBA Anthology	2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship				Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '03 Int'l Challenge of Champs Finals		Pro Billiards '03 Int'l Challenge of Champs Finals		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	EWTN Presents		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Aagawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Snow White Sweet Love		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Mcleod's Daughters IV						Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law III				Spooks I					Spooks I (11:45PM)
HBO	Nothing In Common				Perfect Strangers			Nat'l Lampoon's Christmas Vacation 2: Cousin Eddie's Island Adventure			Action Jackson			Little Black Book			Mary Reilly (10:45PM)		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Mission Odyssey
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	The Fixt	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Tyler's Ultimate	Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?		It's Good To Be	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'D		06 MAA Voting Party	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits		Get Spotted	Rex in the City		Handpicked: Gary V.	TRL		Punk'D		Sessions: Gary V.	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Martin Forever				Alindog				Salamat Sa Lotto				Buy One Take One				Isang Araw Isang Buhay
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zentrix	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	O, Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports							2006 NBA Playoffs 1st Round					2006 NBA Playoffs 1st Round					Solar Sports Desk	Table Tennis World Team Championships	
Sports Plus	NBA Playoffs 1st Round		DFA Preview Series 11			World Poker Tour 2				Gillette World Cup Preview 10	Nopi Tunervision 9	World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Game		Auto Focus		Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge	
Star Movies			If Only (3:25 PM)			Bad Girls			Never Say Never Again (6:45 PM)					Flubber			Garfield (10:35PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		American Idol	The Simple Life	The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol	The Simple Life	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules/Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	Seinfeld	American Idol
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Spells	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Video		Alias (8:20 PM)	Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Q1 pre-need sales down 28%

Life, education plans segments post biggest drop

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF PRE-NEED firms remained fragile as sales dipped 27.8 percent to P5 billion in the first quarter of the year from P6.94 billion in the same period last year, data from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed.

Sales of life plans recorded the biggest drop of 58.3 percent to P676.3 million in the first quarter from P1.62 billion in the same quarter last year.

Sales of education plans fell 57.6 percent to P1.04 billion from P2.45 billion last year.

The pension plans segment of the industry, however, bucked the trend as sales rose 15 percent to P3.3 billion in the first quarter from P2.86 billion in the same period last year.

The total number of plans sold fell 38.42 percent to 65,912 in the first quarter from 107,033 in the same period in 2005.

Life plans led the drop as the number of plans sold declined 59.8 percent followed by education plans which contracted 59.6 percent.

For March alone, total sales declined 41.95 percent to P1.47 billion from P2.54 billion in the same month last year.

Education plans sold plunged 58 percent to P327.3 million in March from P776.81 million in the same month last year.

Life plans sales during the month, likewise, dropped 55.5 percent to P227.2 million. Sales of pension plans was lower by 26.5 percent to P921 million in March.

TOP PERFORMER AWARD
Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) recently conferred Metrobank with the "All Around Performance" award in recognition of its active participation and commitment to DBP's development efforts. Metrobank was commended for being a top performing Participating Financial Institution partner that supports the government's development goals via specialized lending. Metrobank vice chair Placido Mapa (4th from left) received the plaque from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. Looking on are DBP president and chief executive officer Reynaldo David and DBP chair Antonio Alindogan Jr.

Nieto asks court to stop PHC stockholders' meet today

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A SCHEDULED STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING today of listed firm Philcomsat Holdings Corp.(PHC), an affiliate of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. Inc., hangs in the balance as a shareholder files for a court order to stop the meet.

PHC director Manuel Nieto Jr. has asked the Court of Appeals to stop the stockholders meeting slated for today as ordered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

As of press time yesterday, SEC Chair Fe Barin said the SEC had not received any word from the court on the Nieto petition.

Barin also said the validation of proxies to determine who would participate in today's stockholders' meeting had proceeded yesterday.

In a petition filed with the appellate court on April 18, Nieto asked the CA to prevent the SEC from performing acts deemed "arbitrary, whimsical, unjust, unreasonable and unfair, tantamount to a grave abuse of discretion." It also asked the court to annul and set aside three orders issued by the SEC and to defer the PHC stockholders meeting.

Nieto also claimed that the SEC had issued "ultra vires" orders under the guise and pretense of merely directing Philcomsat to call its annual shareholders' meeting this year. Ultra vires refer to orders issued outside the authority of the issuing party.

Nieto argued that these arbitrary acts were causing prejudice, injury and damage to the petitioner, as well as the members of the board of directors, and other shareholders of the sequestered corporations Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. and its subsidiary Philcomsat.

The government, by virtue of sequestered shares, owns 35 percent of POTC, which owns 100 percent of Philcomsat, the controlling shareholder of PHC.

Nieto is asking the appellate court to stop the SEC from deciding on legal issues which are not within its powers under the Securities Regulation Code. It also asked the court to annul and set aside three assailed orders of the SEC which will in turn, endanger PHC's corporate life.

On Feb. 26, respondent SEC and general counsel Vernette Umali-Paco issued its first order directing PHC to hold its annual stockholders' meeting not later than April 17 and prescribing guidelines in forming a nominations and elections committee. On March 10, Nieto filed his letter asking the SEC to reconsider its decision and defer the calling of the annual meeting.

Nieto further claimed that on April 4, the SEC issued its second assailed order scheduling the stockholders' meeting today, May 4.

On the same day, the SEC issued a third order denying Nieto's motion for reconsideration. The SEC said that holding an annual stockholders' meeting for PHC was proper after the Supreme Court approved a compromise agreement last June 15 between shareholders Potenciano Ilusorio and the government settling issues over who will represent POTC and Philcomsat in PHC.

Ayala to offer P3B worth of preferred shares

AYALA CORP. HAS APPROVED A PLAN TO offer P3 billion worth of preferred B shares at P100 a share.

Sources earlier said the issue was aimed at raising funds for debt repayment.

Preferred shares get the first crack at dividend payments but have no voting rights.

Ayala Corp. has an option to increase the size of the offer to P5.8 billion.

The preferred "B" shares will be offered at its par value of P100 a share with a fixed quarterly dividend rate.

BPI Capital Corp. and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. will be the joint issue managers and book runners.

BPI Capital Corp., Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. and First Metro Investment Corp. will act as the joint lead underwriters. Issue date has yet to be announced.

Ayala earlier announced it will reclassify unissued preferred shares of the company into 5.8 billion new class of preferred shares with a par value of P1 per share or a total of P5.8 billion.

The reclassified shares will also allow Ayala to be flexible in using preferred shares as a funding option in light of new reporting standards. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Filinvest to issue ₱1B worth of 5-year notes

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp., the holding company of the Filinvest Group, is issuing this week P1 billion worth of five-year corporate notes to raise funds for its resort project in Cebu and for debt payment, officials said.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FDC said it would issue the notes to state-led Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on Friday. An omnibus corporate notes facility and security agreement was signed by the company and DBP yesterday.

The notes will be secured by real estate mortgage on the company's property in Mactan, Cebu, and a pledge of certain common and preferred shares of Filinvest Asia Corp. held by FDC.

In its meeting yesterday, FDC's board of directors approved the execution of the said agreement.

FDC is launching this year a new leisure development dubbed Seascape Resort Town. Seascape sits on a 12-hectare seaside property located in Mactan, Cebu. The proposed resort community will offer private lots, casitas, villas, condominium units and a beach club. The world-class resort is geared toward the booming tourists trade and is intended to fill the shortage in prime tourists destination in Cebu. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Finance rejects tax relief . . .

From page B1

empted from the income tax.

The threshold is currently set at P30,000, which means bonuses and benefits (such as Christmas bonus, and productivity incentives) in excess of this amount is subject to income tax.

The DOLE wanted the amount increased to P45,000 to factor in inflation since the late 1990s when the P30,000 ceiling was set.

But the DOF said the proposal would result in huge revenue losses for the government. A finance official said preliminary estimates showed that the government stand to lose between P5 billion and P7 billion in potential revenues if the government would adopt DOLE's proposal.

"Right now, the DOF's position is that the government should first focus on the proposal to exempt minimum wage earners from the income tax," the finance official said. Ideally, the official added, benefits to other income groups that would result in any foregone revenues for the government should be tackled only after the government shall have wiped out its budget deficit.

The DOF earlier threw its support behind a proposal to exempt minimum wage earners from the income tax. A bill on the proposal is pending in Congress.

While waiting for the bill to be passed, the Bureau of Internal Revenue already issued a revenue regulation requiring employers to temporarily defer withholding the income tax of employees until next year.

The DOF and the BIR are hoping that the bill formally exempting employees from the income tax will have already been passed by next year.

The finance official said exempting only minimum wage earners from the income tax was something the government could afford because it would only lead to P500 million in potential tax collection to be lost a year.

Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said in a letter to the DOF that her office's proposal would have been a nice gift to workers during the Labor Day celebration. She said workers needed reprieve given the increasing cost of living.

Under the government's fiscal program, the budget deficit stood at P146.8 billion last year and is expected to be trimmed down to P125 billion this year. The government expects the deficit to fall to zero by 2008.

RP eyes $9B . . .

From page B1

ties, including those provided by the IMF.

In principle, the financial assistance links to the IMF facilities. Up to 10 percent of the maximum amount of withdrawals could be provided without linkage with the IMF facilities.

The maximum amount of drawdown under each arrangement will be determined by bilateral negotiation.

Disbursement will be made in a concerted way based on consultation among the swap-providing countries. A coordinating country will coordinate the consultation process.

In the aftermath of the 1997 currency crisis, Japan proposed the creation of an Asian monetary fund as a framework for promoting financial cooperation and policy coordination in the region, which would help Asian economies prevent and manage better future financial crises. The proposal received a positive response from a number of East Asian countries, but was opposed by the United States, the European community and the IMF.

The Chiang Mai initiative, named after the region in northern Thailand where the framework was crafted in 2000, was the closest alternative to a regional defense mechanism that the region was able to establish.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of May 3, 2006)

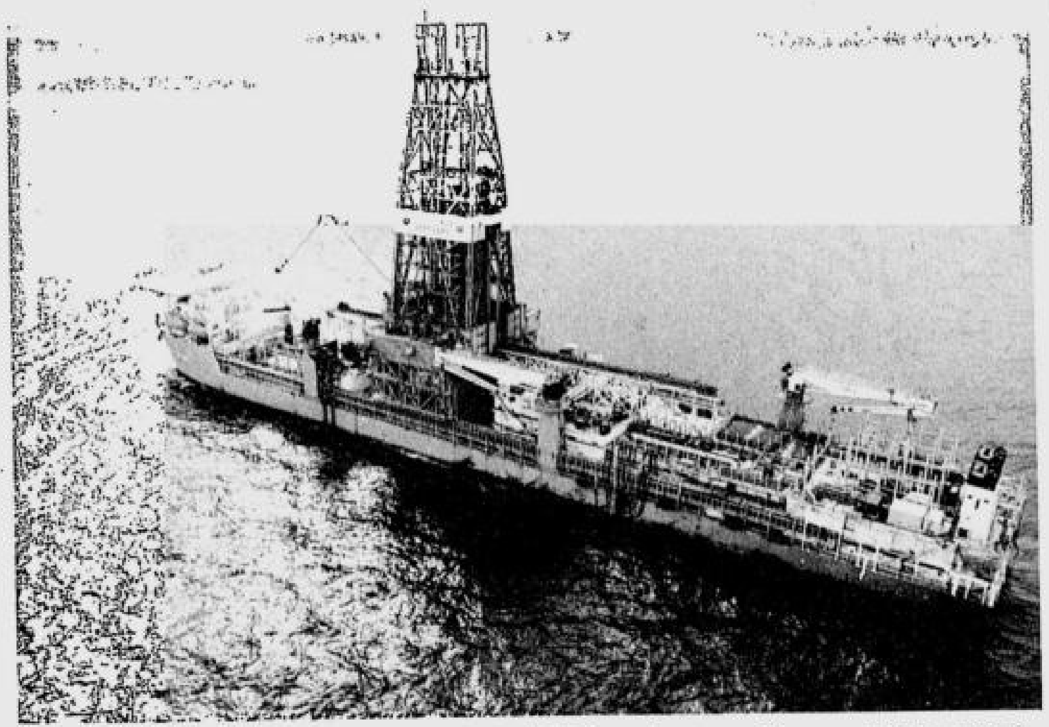
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.9	389,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	78,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	62.5	62	62.5	5,819,700
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.45	0.42	0.45	9,020,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	73.5	74	72.5	73.5	166,200
International Exch. Bank	39	39.5	37.5	37.5	314,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39	38.5	39	1,209,500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	37,400
Phil. Savings Bank	39.5	40	39.5	40	11,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15.5	16.5	15.5	16.25	641,800
Security Bank Corp.	49.5	53.5	49.5	53.5	400,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	53,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30	30	30	8,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3200	3200	3200	3200	60
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	60,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	200	200	200	200	4,700
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2155	2155	2155	2155	210
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.32	1.32	16,458,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	59,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	45.5	45	45	597,200
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13.5	13	13.25	20,400
Manila Electric Co. B	18.75	19.25	18.5	19	707,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	7.4	6.8	7.4	28,229,000
Petron Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.4	3,008,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4,000
CADP Group Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	132,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	2,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	21.25	22.5	21.25	22.5	218,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36	35.5	35.5	554,700
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	160,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.55	3.45	3.45	692,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63	64	45,700
San Miguel Corp. B	80.5	81	80.5	81	157,300
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	130,900
Universal Robina Corp.	23	23.75	23	23.5	4,266,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	90,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	1,450,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.58	1.68	1.58	1.68	13,575,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.12	1.14	215,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5.2	2,097,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.09	0.0975	32,100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.53	580,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	1,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.007	0.008	76,000,000
Ayala Corp.	370	382.5	370	382.5	211,540
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	160,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	6	6	5.9	5.9	2,316,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	7,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.85	259,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	2,450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	291,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	1.06	0.93	1.02	11,080,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	14,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	7,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.4	2,331,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.45	3.6	3.45	3.5	3,745,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.54	1.58	1.54	1.56	340,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.6	7.1	7.5	2,250,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.011	146,100,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	5,030,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	14,800,000
SM Investments Corp.	225	230	224	230	119,680
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.7	0.81	0.7	0.81	890,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	600,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	610,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	11,852,000
Belle Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	4,255,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31	1,840,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.24	2.2	2.24	1,212,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.68	1.68	52,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	30,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1	1	1	1	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	4,190,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.67	20,640,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.64	0.68	0.64	0.68	160,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.54	1.46	1.48	8,886,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	400,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	16,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.28	4,600,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.6	490,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.46	1.52	1.46	1.5	176,952,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.25	26,610,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	2,120,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	570,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	517,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	11.5	10.75	11.25	438,600
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.36	18,970,000
SM Development Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	599,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	8.1	7.9	8.1	2,741,000
Uniwide Holdings, Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	3,100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	56,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.14	22,587,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	935	960	935	960	61,250
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.1	3,045,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2040	2045	2040	2045	138,120
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	0.22	5,100,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	4,100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	6,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	11,600,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.028	0.026	0.028	934,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3	3.2	3	3	326,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12	12.75	12	12.25	2,589,600
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	10,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	1,003,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.72	1.8	1.72	1.76	250,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3.1	3	3.1	2,043,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	14,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1,720,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.35	481,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.08	2.08	2,100,000
Paxys Inc.	10.25	10.5	10	10.25	1,478,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.95	5,261,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.9	3.1	2.9	2.95	2,502,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	212,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	8.3	7.7	8.2	8,503,000
Benguet Corp. A	13	13.5	13	13.5	86,800
Benguet Corp. B	30	30	30	30	200
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2	2	2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	31,950,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.44	32,260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	101,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	126,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3	8,376,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.35	12,189,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28.5	28	28.5	218,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.38	0.45	0.38	0.43	2,340,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.59	1,950,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.29	7,070,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	1,103,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	241,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1.16	1	1.14	6,020,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1.22	1	1.16	2,770,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.5	10.5	9.5	10.25	1,688,700
PREFERRED					
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	781,800

Currencies

May 3, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792456	1.000000	51.6320
Japan	Yen	0.006993	0.008825	0.4557
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458198	1.840100	95.0080
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102202	0.128969	6.6589
Switzerland	Franc	0.640420	0.808146	41.7262
Canada	Dollar	0.716312	0.903914	46.6709
Singapore	Dollar	0.502254	0.633794	32.7241
Australia	Dollar	0.604420	0.762718	39.3807
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.102228	2.652801	136.9694
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211288	0.266624	13.7663
Brunei	Dollar	0.500667	0.631792	32.6207
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.021093	0.026617	1.3743
UAE	Dirham	0.215769	0.272279	14.0583
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.261900	65.1544
Argentina	Peso	0.260334	0.328515	16.9619
Brazil	Real	0.382367	0.482509	24.9129
Denmark	Kroner	0.134133	0.169262	8.7393
India	Rupee	0.017680	0.022311	1.1520
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219274	0.276702	14.2867
Mexico	New Peso	0.072159	0.091058	4.7015
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507237	0.640082	33.0487
Norway	Kroner	0.128614	0.162298	8.3798
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013203	0.016661	0.8602
South Africa	Rand	0.131271	0.165651	8.5529
Korea	Won	0.000843	0.001064	0.0549
Sweden	Kroner	0.107134	0.135192	6.9802
Syria	Pound	0.015266	0.019264	0.9946
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024973	0.031514	1.6271
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000369	0.000466	0.0241

Asia absorbs crude oil price shock, analysts say

Conservation efforts cushion impact of rising prices



THE DISCOVERER Deep Seas drillship sits in 4,000 feet of water as Chevron drills for oil. Oil prices rose above $74 a barrel amid fear that international pressure on Iran to modify its nuclear program may lead to supply cuts from the key exporter. AP

SINGAPORE—CURBS ON ENERGY usage and fuel-efficient technology have helped minimize inflation across oil-dependent Asian economies, cushioning the impact of spiraling oil prices, analysts said.

State subsidies, even if costly, and sound government finances are other factors helping countries absorb the effects of rising consumer prices.

For analysts, the biggest unanswered question is at what point will inflation rates buckle under pressure from the record-high oil prices which have gushed past $75 a barrel.

So far, consumer and business sentiments have held up.

"Have we seen consumers being hit by sharply higher prices for everyday items? The answer is no," said Song Seng Wun, a regional economist with CIMB-GK brokerage in Singapore.

But "there has to be a breaking point," he warned, adding that it was "anybody's guess" when this may happen.

Takahira Ogawa, director for Asia Pacific Ratings at US credit rating firm Standard and Poor's, said the impact on inflation will depend on the duration of the oil price surge and will differ for individual Asian economies.

Nicholas Brooks, London-based senior economist at Henderson Global Investors, said headline inflation rates in most of Asia have risen due to higher fuel costs, but core prices excluding energy items have remained relatively subdued.

Economies with large current account surpluses, sound fiscal positions and stable net capital inflows are in a better position to cope should crude prices stay above $70 a barrel for a sustained period, Brooks added.

These would include Singapore, Hong Kong, China and Malaysia. Countries seen as vulnerable are India, Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan and South Korea, he said.

Regional economies and industries have begun taking measures to cope with higher energy costs by using alternative fuels such as ethanol and adopting measures to cut down on energy consumption.

In Thailand, consumption of gasohol—a mixture of oil and plant fuels—has quadrupled in the last year to hit 3.4 million liters a day in March when total fuel consumption was 70 million litres per day.

In the Philippines, the government said it will lower oil import tariffs, while President Macapagal-Arroyo announced plans to promote greater use of ethanol and other fuel alternatives.

Indonesia, which faces higher fuel subsidy bills, said it may impose restrictions on fuel consumption for vehicles, but this would first be discussed with parliament, said National Planning Minister Paskah Suzetta.

AFP

Asian stocks rise

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES ROSE YESTERDAY after buoyant oil prices boosted major energy shares in New York, pushing US stocks to their highest close in more than six years.

Gold hit another 25-year high on persistent fund buying driven by a weak dollar and as crude oil prices hovered just below $75 a barrel, within sight of record highs on mounting tension over Iran's nuclear plans.

Strong bullion prices pushed up shares of gold miners in Australia and Hong Kong such as Newcrest Mining Ltd. and Zijin Mining Group Co. Ltd. rose 1.08 percent.

The Tokyo stock market was closed for the Golden Week holiday period but other Asian bourses surged, led by Hong Kong and Taiwan, both of which hit 5-1/2-year highs.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was nearly 1 percent higher as investors snapped up shares in property plays thanks to strong April sales and laggards such as HSBC Holdings.

Taiwan stocks closed up 0.59 percent after hitting a fresh 5-1/2-year intraday high and Indian shares touched a new peak before retreating as profit-taking set in.

South Korea's benchmark KOSPI share index ended flat as banks such as Hana Financial scaled record highs after solid quarterly results, while Samsung Electronics Co. and other exporters extended declines on worries over a rising won.

In Singapore, the key Strait Times index climbed as much as 1.27 percent to a record, as banks rose on expectations of strong earnings following robust results from No. 1 bank DBS Group.

Gold has gained around 29 percent this year as investors diversified into precious metals on global tensions, rising energy costs and uncertainty over the dollar's outlook.

The US dollar hit an eight-month low against the sterling and hovered near recent one-year lows versus the euro, having failed to extend gains on renewed talk about more US interest rate rises. *Reuters*

ADB meets to set path for Asia, itself

HYDERABAD, INDIA—THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) opened its annual meeting yesterday to set the course for strengthening the region's economies while trying to serve the often diverging interests of its 65 members.

Founded in 1966 with a mandate to elevate hundreds of millions of Asians from poverty, the ADB's members range from struggling Nepal and Bangladesh to booming China and India to its largest and most powerful donors, Japan and the United States.

The challenges of economic integration, high oil prices, protectionism, bird flu and Asia's huge infrastructure needs are high on the four-day agenda for finance officials, bankers and the rest of the 2,500 delegates in the Indian city of Hyderabad.

Calls for developing countries to help fix global imbalances through exchange rate flexibility will be in the spotlight on Thursday at a meeting of finance chiefs from Southeast Asian nations plus China, Japan and South Korea (Asean+3).

Japanese officials said the Asean+3 ministers will also discuss fine-tuning a six-year-old currency swap mechanism and expanding domestic debt markets—both designed to ward off the kind of financial crisis that hit the region in 1997/98.

"Delegates will be looking at how to address poverty in the context of these challenges and a rapidly changing Asia and, in particular, how the ADB can respond to the region's changing needs," the bank said in a statement.

The ADB expects economic growth in Asia, not including Japan, of 7.2 percent this year and 7 percent in 2007 as China and other big exporters ride on robust global trade and electronics demand.

Like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the ADB is being forced to re-examine its role in dealing with imbalances in the global economy and the evolving demands of developing countries for finance, fiscal guidance and a stronger voice.

China and India, in particular, now have ready access to funding from international capital markets and want more innovative policies and faster decisions from the ADB, which gave members $6.95 billion in loans and grants for projects last year.

"We need to change further and substantially," the bank's president, Haruhiko Kuroda, told Reuters in a recent interview.

Traditionally led by a Japanese president, the ADB has not been able to shake off criticism that it is too bureaucratic, too consensus-driven and too slow to react.

"It's like a Japanese company run by Indian bureaucrats," said one ADB staffer who asked not to be named.

Reuters

People, Events & Products

G-Cash partners with PRC

THE PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE is the backbone of a nation's economic performance, especially for a country like the Philippines, which relies on revenues remitted by overseas foreign workers. To ensure that the country continues to produce world-class professionals, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has kept up with the latest technological innovations and practices, partnering with Globe G-Cash - the country's first integrated mobile payments system - in establishing its flagship project, the Licensure Examination and Registration Information System (Leris).

Leris is a reliable, secure, and globally accessible professional licensure system that enables online application, registration, and payment of professional licenses and fees, walk-in computer-based examinations secured by a test questions database management system, as well legal management and executive information systems. Globe G-Cash powers Leris' multi-channel online payment facility, allowing license applicants to pay their testing fees via mobile phone anytime, anywhere.

"Integrating G-Cash into the Leris system will definitely make fee collection more convenient, as well as simplify the process of generating financial reports," said PRC chairperson Leonor Rosero, noting that the computerization of such procedures is part of the government's modernization plan - which Globe G-Cash has consistently taken part in. Globe G-Cash is recognized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as a secure, alternative payment system, and is the Bureau of Internal Revenue's trusted partner in facilitating mobile micropayments of business registration renewals. Aside from micropayments, Globe G-Cash also enables the mobile transfer of cash values for domestic and international remittance.

The service is supported by an open platform that easily integrates into existing business systems, making Globe G-Cash highly adaptable to suit the needs of both government institutions and private industries, says Rizza Maniego-Eala, president of G-Xchange Inc, Globe's wholly-owned subsidiary tasked to oversee the development of m-commerce in the Philippines. "This latest collaboration with PRC is further proof of the continued growth of m-commerce in the country, and Globe G-Cash takes pride in participating in such a milestone project," notes Eala.

LPCI AWARDS P5 MILLION PENSION PLAN BENEFIT TO MSEUF

Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc (LPCI) represented by its senior vice president for strategic sales, Elias D. Micael III (center), awarded P5,311,620 worth of pension plan benefit to Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (MSEUF) president, Naila Enverga-Leveriza, last April 17, in their campus at Lucena City. Shown are (from left): Lope Papa - LPCI group business manager, LPCI regional directors from South Luzon Cluster - Emmanuel Ladines, Karl Marc Co and cluster head - Samuel Moreno, MSEUF vice president for administration, Jasmine Enverga, Cesar Wong (behind), Erlinda Micor, Amelia Delos Reyes, Josefina Pujanes and LPCI group business manager, Evelyn Rodriguez.

AIM's Master in Management 30th Grand Leadership Walk-About

THE ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT (AIM) Master in Management (MM) program will be hosting a series of activities in celebration of its 30th Anniversary on May 5, at the AIM Campus in Makati.

The whole day affair will commence at 8 a.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony to open the MM exhibit entitled MM: Then and Now. This will be succeeded by a live case discussion on the development of San Miguel Super Coffee Mix Inc to be led by San Miguel Super Coffee Mix president and CEO, Debbie Namalata (MM '2002).

The afternoon activities will begin with a luncheon featuring a lecture on Bridging Leadership by Prof. Ernesto Garilao (MM '82) of the AIM Washington SyCip Graduate School of Business (WSGSB). After which, a session on the status of leadership today with prominent alumni, Datuk Ir. (Dr.) Mohd Annas Hj. Mohd Noor (MM '84), special advisor Genting Power, International Business of Genting Power Holdings Ltd., and Subodh Saxena, (MM'78), chief executive officer of Hayat Telecommunications, will be held at the AIM Campus and will be beamed to MM alumni and guests in Mumbai and New Delhi, India, Malaysia, Dubai, UAE and Indonesia via the facilities of the AIM - World Bank Global Distance Learning Center.

The MM 30th Anniversary celebration will culminate with "30th MM Anniversary: A Celebration of Leadership Excellence", a recognition dinner honoring MM's past program directors and faculty members, to be held at the Zen Garden of the AIM Campus, at 6 p.m.

The MM 30th Anniversary celebration is made possible through the sponsorship of Smart, Petron and Panasonic. For more information about this event, please contact Queenie, at 892-4011 ext. 285, Edythe at 894-0043 or Rhia at 750-6575. MM alumni are also invited to link to the MM yahoo group via aim-mm-alumni@yahoogroups.com to keep informed about the MM 30th anniversary celebration, developments in the MM program, other activities, and news about the MM alumni across the globe.

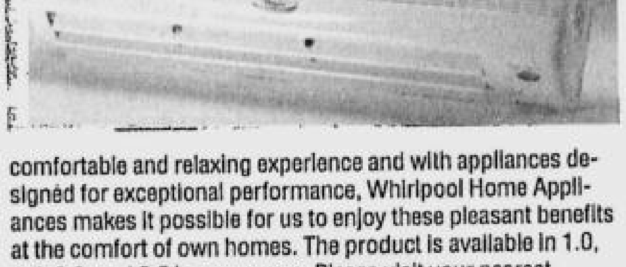
ProductFILES

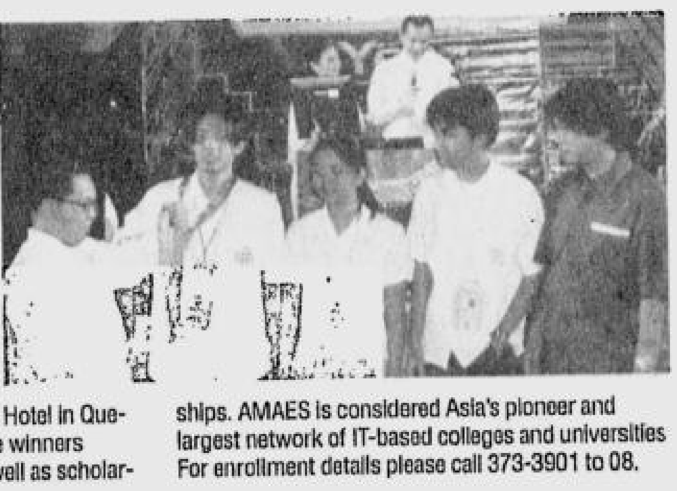
Earth, wind and sand

THE BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB IS THE PERFECT PRIVATE OASIS offering the charm of both old and new Baguio. This summer, the club is offering a special package called "Beach Escape", combining the best of the north - the cool Benguet mountains, and the magnificent China Sea. Relax in their cozy rooms full of delightful touches like cable television, refrigerator, floor-to-ceiling windows and a private balcony with a spectacular view of the valley or the refreshing greens of the 18-hole golf course. While staying in this first class exclusive club, you will be treated to spend a day to enjoy a rejuvenating swim in the tranquil sea just a couple of hours' drive away. What's more, experience showers of savings this June 15 to Sept. 15. The Club is offering the "Stay and Play Package" for individual bookings and its "Corporate Retreat Specials" for groups. These packages will help you make the most of your stay in Baguio Country Club. By paying for 2 nights stay upon arrival, guests are provided with a 1 time unlimited free recreation usage of your choice. A host of outdoor and indoor pleasures available are golf, badminton, tennis, bowling, billiards, table tennis, sauna, heated swimming pool and Jacuzzi, kid's club, and fitness center. To conclude the stay, one can leisurely take the time and have a late check-out of until 3 p.m. Indicate the name of the magazine where you read this when you ask for these special packages to receive a free gift. E-mail them at bccsales@tri-isys.com.

Whirlpool's Whispure: Engineered to provide effortless comfort

FOR GENERATIONS, WHIRLPOOL HOME APPLIANCES HAS been in the forefront of introducing home appliances of utmost quality to the Filipino people. They have been one of the most trusted brands in Philippines. And to start the year right, Whirlpool is proud to introduce – Whispure, the latest Split Type Air Conditioner in the market today. Whispure boasts of 6 th Sense Technology, an "intelligent" sensor that detects temperature changes and automatically makes adjustments thus, preserving excellent room cooling conditions. Another feature is its Ionizer Filter which releases negative ions that purifies the air around it. Also, its Jet Mode Function allows a hot, averaged-sized room to cool in a matter of minutes. All these features are in place to ensure that coming home is always a comfortable and relaxing experience and with appliances designed for exceptional performance, Whirlpool Home Appliances makes it possible for us to enjoy these pleasant benefits at the comfort of own homes. The product is available in 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and 2.5 horsepowers. Please visit your nearest Whirlpool showroom or call 732-7370 for details.





AMA IT OLYMPIAD GRAND CHAMPIONS

Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, SVP for operations of AMA Education System is shown awarding the trophy to the AMA IT Olympiad 2006 grand champions (from left) Abdel Hadi M. Mohammad Isa, Olive Ruth A. Dag, Kit Lorenzo M. Ajoc, and their coach Bernard A. Beduya of Philippine Science High School Southern Mindanao, Davao City. The grand finals was held last March 21, at the Rembrandt Hotel in Quezon City. Representing Region 11, the winners brought home P100,000 in cash as well as scholarships. AMAES is considered Asia's pioneer and largest network of IT-based colleges and universities For enrollment details please call 373-3901 to 08.

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006 at the age of 84.

His loving wife
BEATRICE

Children
JOY
BUTCH & OLLIE
JEFFREY
ELIZABETH

Grandchildren
CLINTON & JACQUELINE
CHRISSY
MIKEY
JEANETTE
JACLYN & LUKE
JAY
JANELLE
JAMIE
NIÑA

request family and friends to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Unilab Main Compound, United Street, Mandaluyong City, on Friday, May 5th. On Saturday, May 6th, his remains will be transferred to Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at 7 o'clock in the evening.

On Monday, May 8th, after Holy Mass at 11 o'clock in the morning at Sanctuario, cremation will follow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Please omit flowers.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff
of

UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.
UNILAB GROUP OF COMPANIES
GREENFIELD GROUP OF COMPANIES

announce with deepest sorrow the passing away
in the Grace of our Lord on May 1, 2006
of our beloved

FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

His remains will lie in state at the Unilab Main Compound, United Street, Mandaluyong City on Friday evening, May 5th. On Saturday afternoon, May 6th, his remains will be transferred to Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be offered at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Please omit flowers.

UNILAB

The Stockholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff

of

NUTRIASIA GROUP OF COMPANIES
Southeast Asia Food, Inc.
UFC Philippines, Inc.

mourn the passing away in the Grace of our Lord on May 1, 2006 of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

father of Joselito D. Campos Jr.
Chairman of the Board of NutriAsia Group of Companies

His remains will lie in state at the Unilab Main Compound, United Street, Mandaluyong City, on Friday evening, May 5th. On Saturday afternoon, May 6th, his remains will be transferred to Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at 7 o'clock in the evening.

On Monday, May 8th, after Holy Mass at 11 o'clock in the morning at Sanctuario, cremation will follow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Please omit flowers.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff

of

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LIMITED

mourn the passing away in the Grace of our Lord on May 1, 2006 of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

father of Joselito D. Campos Jr.
Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Del Monte Pacific Limited.

His remains will lie in state at the Unilab Main Compound, United Street, Mandaluyong City, on Friday evening, May 5th. On Saturday afternoon, May 6th, his remains will be transferred to Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be offered daily at 7 o'clock in the evening.

On Monday, May 8th, after Holy Mass at 11 o'clock in the morning at Sanctuario, cremation will follow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the Heritage Memorial Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Please omit flowers.

CARMEN MARIÑO PEREZ

Loving Wife & Devoted Mother

December 21, 1921 - May 2, 2006

Carmen (Mameng) lived an interesting and very full life. A former Miss Lux Philippines, international flight attendant, teacher & employee of Philippine Refining Co. (UNILEVER), she enjoyed gardening, traveling, being involved in church activities and spending time with her grandchildren overseas. She was a faithful Christian.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years **Ernesto Arriola Perez**; daughters **Malu**, **Marites** and **Mary Ann**; sons-in-law **Bong Koo Lee** & **Dennis Scullion**; grandchildren **Kevin**, **Kenneth**, **Danielle** & **Justin**; sisters **Mary Giberson** and **Pilar Mariño**; and brother-in-law **Louis Giberson**.

Her body will lie in state inside the Main Sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church beginning May 4, 2006 (address: 594 T.M. Kalaw St. cor. Taft Ave. Tel. 525-7590).

A memorial service co-celebrated with Kamuning First Methodist Church will be held at Central United Methodist Church on Friday May 5, 2006 at 8:00 pm.

Final necrological service will take place on May 6, 2006 at 10:00 am also at Central United Methodist Church.

Cremation services (to be attended by the immediate family) will take place after the necrological service.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Empoyees of

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

extend their condolences to the family of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006.

---

*"To everything there is a reason
a time for every purpose under the heavens
a time to be born and a time to die..."*
Ecclesiastes 3

DIEGO MORGADO MENORCA

Of Romblon & Navotas, Metro Manila

November 12, 1926 - May 2, 2006

His remains lie in state at RIZAL Funeral Homes in Pasay City.

Interment will be on Friday, May 5, 2006, 3:00 p.m.
at Navotas Catholic Cemetery.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

Death Notice

RALPH "Ike" REBUSTILLO RAYALA

Passed away in the Grace of our LORD on April 26, 2006 at the age of 48.

The bereaved family, wife Nimfa Vibal; children Karen, Ryan, Ralph Waldo, Raeanne, Randhell, Raven, Rhena John and mother Eva Salvo; brother Boboy; sisters Marie Lynn, Linda, Ma. Socorro and Aiza; uncles and aunties, in-laws, nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family home in Ilaor Sur, Oas, Albay. Burial will be on Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 2 p.m. after the Mass at Oas North Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

Medical Claims Encoders

- *Excellent Communication and Presentation Skills*
- *Self-motivated*
- *Goal/Results-oriented*
- *Must be a Team Player*
- *Computer skills familiar with MS Excel and Word*
- *Professional Relationship Skills*
- *Medical background preferred*

Send resumé to

K&A Insurance Brokers, Inc.
Unit 6-0, 6th Floor,
Vernida 1 Condominium
120 Amorsolo Street,
Legaspi Village,
Makati City, Philippines
ATTN: Isabel Tolentino
Tel: (632) 759-3122, 23 & 25
Fax: (632) 759-3126
Email address:
raschnabel@globelines.com.ph

WANTED TO BUY

SAND FOR CEMENT INDUSTRY
size: 2.9mm or below requirement
400,000 metric ton / month
Give your best price in FOB Phil. Port
Contact: Mr. So 0917-8445375
Tel. 330-1453 to 56
Fax: 453-6898 & 453-7145

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry & Investment Building
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax Nos.: (632) 895-3521 (IPG)
(632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978 (TSG) (632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **ASTRX CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Operator of ICT Export Service Firm in the Field of Software Development on a Non-Pioneer** Status with capacity of **Not applicable, being a service activity** and with project/plant site located at **#7 Geson Building, D. Jakosalem St., Cebu City**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration
Department

(PDI-May 4, 2006)

Duraville holds Somerset Place Market introduction!!!!!

Somerset Place, the first project of Duraville Realty and Development Corporation to be launched this year, shall be formally introduced to the market on 6 May 2006 at 10 A.M.- 5:00 PM with the theme "Somerset Fair". This event shall be held at the project site located at Manggahan, Pasig City.

Round table presentations about the project's features, amenities, investment value and more shall be conducted. A mini-exhibit showcasing the floor plans of the house models, perspective of the clubhouse complex, gate, et al shall also be mounted to better inform buyers of the advantages of investing in this project. Most importantly introductory prices shall be offered exclusively for this event.

Editha L. Manansala, the EVP of Duraville Marketing, Inc. believes that Somerset Place guarantees to be very saleable because of its strategic location, that is, located less than a kilometer from Eastwood City and has no direct competitor within a 5-kilometer radius. So for those who are interested in the project, confirm your attendance with Leah or Jeanette at tel.nos. 634-8801-03. Food stalls shall be put up to provide food for buyers, Brokers and Agents.

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that
SOUTHLUZ MOTORCYCLE DIST. INC.
Provisional Receipt
Series No. 3251-3300 was reported lost in Lucena Branch, any receipt issued from this series will not be honored.
(PDI-May 4, 5 & 6, 2006)

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744

P 25 M Bldg. For Sale
Vacant Possession or
With Tenant
(College of Nursing)
10 yr Lease
P 1.25 M/yr.
(5% return)
721-8938 or 39

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads on pages A12, A18, A19 & A22

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC2006-04-0004

ADOPTING DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. DC 2004-04-004 ENTITLED "GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO IMPORT UNDER THE NATURAL GAS VEHICLE PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT" AS THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 396 AND 488 DATED DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND JANUARY 12, 2006, RESPECTIVELY, AND DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR DC NO. 2005-07-006 DATED JULY 5, 2005 AND AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE SAID D.C. NO. 2004-04-004

WHEREAS, Executive Order (E.O.) No. 66, series of 2002 entitled "Designating the Department of Energy (DOE) as the Lead Agency in Developing the Philippine Natural Gas Industry", mandates the DOE to ensure a unified and coordinated effort towards establishing a successful and robust natural gas industry;

WHEREAS, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo launched the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT) on October 16, 2002 that aims to enhance the energy supply security in the transport sector through fuel diversification using indigenous natural gas and to use natural gas as a clean alternative fuel for transport, and at the same time unveiled a portfolio of incentives to encourage private sector participation to provide the necessary support, logistics and infrastructure;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 164, series of 2003 entitled "Modifying the Nomenclature and the Rates of Import Duty on Various Products under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464, as amended)", reduces the rates of duty for NGV industry-related equipment, parts and components to encourage active private sector participation;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 290 entitled "Implementing the NGVPPT" was approved and signed on February 24, 2004 to ensure effective implementation of the program.

WHEREAS, to enable the DOE to effectively implement E.O. No. 290 and E.O. No. 164 and successfully pursue the overall execution plan of the NGVPPT, it issued and promulgated Department Circular No. 2004-04-004 which prescribed the Guidelines on the Issuance of certificate of accreditation and certificate of authority to import under the NGVPPT;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 396, series of 2004, further reduces the rates of duty from 1% to 0% for NGV industry-related equipment, parts and components to encourage active private sector participation;

WHEREAS, Section 4 of the said Executive Order mandates the DOE, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations that will govern the implementation of this Executive Order;

WHEREAS, in a meeting held on March 8, 2005 and attended by representatives of the DOE, NEDA, BOC and DTI through the Board of Investments, it was agreed upon that D.C. No. 2004-04-004 be adopted as the IRR of E.O. No. 396 and certain provisions thereof be amended;

WHEREAS, Department Circular No. DC2005-07-006, series of 2005, was issued to set the policy direction to guide all stakeholders particularly as regards to securing access to the supply of indigenous natural gas and establishment of CNG distribution infrastructure;

WHEREAS, after several meetings of the Technical Working Group established under the D.C. No. 2005-07-006, it was agreed upon that D.C. No. 2004-04-004 be adopted as the IRR of D.C. No. 2005-07-006 and certain provisions thereof be amended;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 488, series of 2006, modifies the import duty on components, parts and accessories for the assembly of hybrid, electric, flexible fuel and compressed natural gas (CNG) motor vehicles to provide opportunity for the manufacture and assembly of the emerging alternative fuel vehicle technology;

WHEREAS, in a meeting called by BOI on February 2, 2006 which was attended by representatives from the DOE and industry players including car manufacturers for the drafting of the guidelines for E.O. 488, it was agreed upon that registration and issuance of Certificate of Authority to Import for Category I: Manufacture and Assembly of CNG motor vehicles under D.C. 2004-04-004 shall be transferred to BOI's Motor Vehicle Development Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, the DOE in coordination with the DTI though BOI, NEDA, BOC and concerned industry players hereby adopts DOE Circular No. D.C. 2004-04-004 as the IRR of E.O. 396, E. O. 488 and D.C. 2005-07-006 and likewise promulgates the following rules and regulations/amendments to certain provisions of D.C. No. 2004-04-004:

SECTION 1. Section 1(b & d), Rule I are hereby amended to read as follows:

RULE I

GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

"Section I. Requirements.

xxx xxx xxx

b) Any natural or juridical person, organized under Philippine laws that will engage in any NGV industry-related businesses including CNG refueling station and transport operation; NGV operation; NGV and related parts/components manufacture and assembly; NGV re-power/retrofit/conversion including repair and maintenance; and related activities such as research and development (R&D) activities and operation of NGVs as shuttle service.

d) "Qualified participants may be categorized under any of the following groups:

"Category I - Manufacture/Assembly of NGVs

- "Engaged in the establishment of new assembly facilities or utilization of an existing assembly facility for the assembly/manufacture of brand new quality NGVs registered under the BOI's Motor Vehicle Development Program

"Category II – Operation of NGVs

- "Engaged in the operation of NGVs in accordance with relevant Philippine National Standards (PNS) and procedures including the provision of warranties to NGV owners/operators

"Category III – Re-powering/Retrofitting/Conversion of NGVs

- "Engaged in the re-power, retrofit, conversion, repair and maintenance of NGVs in accordance with relevant Philippine National Standards (PNS) and procedures including the provision of warranties to NGV owners/operators

"Category IV – CNG Refueling Station/Transport Operation

- "Engaged in the design, construction, installation and operation of CNG refueling station/s and related infrastructures and facilities including hauling/transport of CNG in accordance with relevant PNS standards and procedures

"Category V – Others

- "Engaged in research and development (R&D) activities and operation of NGVs as shuttle service by government entities as approved by the DOE."

SECTION 2. Section 1(e) is hereby amended to read as follows:

e) As their commitment under the NGVPPT, each participant, over a period of one (1) year from the date of issuance of their CA, shall invest and/or bring in investments in any NGV industry-related businesses. The minimum investment requirements* are as follows:

"Category I (Manufacture and assembly)	: (MVDP)
"Category II (Operation)	: US$0.40 million
"Category III (Re-powering/Retrofit/ Conversion)	: US$0.20 million
"Category IV (Refueling station)	: US$0.50 million
"Category V (Others)	: (to be determined by the DOE)"

Note: The minimum investment requirements shall be recomputed every five (5) years to validate the viability of the figures to the prevailing conditions.*

"Proof of investments in the NGV industry-related businesses shall be in accordance with the commitments submitted to the DOE. Such proof may include an update report on the undertakings from the date of accreditation and accompanied by certified photocopies of documents relative to the undertakings. The DOE may automatically cancel the CA after the Committee finds each participant to be non-compliant with its commitment, subject to the imposition of the following penalties payable to the pertinent government agency involved: (a) payment of duty differential on all importations; and (b) payment of other incentives provided under the program."

xxx xxx xxx

SECTION 3. Section 2(b-f), Rule I are hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Procedures.

xxx xxx xxx

b) The DOE-EUMB shall only receive and record duly accomplished application forms with complete requirements as stated in the checklists (Annexes 2 and 3). A non-refundable processing fee of Php 5,000.00 shall be charged to the proponent/applicant upon filing of each application.

c) The DOE-EUMB shall review and evaluate the application submitted by the proponent/applicant and recommend appropriate action on the application. The evaluation of the applicant's business proposal and/or feasibility study shall be based on, but not be limited to the following criteria:

- Viability of the project;
- Impact on the industry and economy as a whole; and
- Impact on the NGVPPT

d) Upon EUMB recommendation, the DOE NGVPPT Committee created under D.C. 2005-07-006 shall decide on each application. If found meritorious, the Committee will recommend to the Undersecretary the approval of the application.

e) Applicants with approved application shall be issued a Certificate of Accreditation (CA) signed by the DOE Undersecretary, with clearance and authority from the DOE Secretary, and shall comply with terms and conditions specified therein (Annex 1). The CA shall be valid for two (2) years from the date of issuance and shall be renewed every two (2) years subject to regular procedure.

f) The original CA shall be claimed from the Office of the Director, Energy Utilization Management Bureau (EUMB), Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

SECTION 4. A new provision to be known as Section I is incorporated under Rule 2 which reads as follows:

RULE II

GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO IMPORT (CAI) NATURAL GAS VEHICLES (CBU, CKD AND KD), COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) REFUELING SYSTEMS, NGV CONVERSION/ RETROFIT SYSTEMS, RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES, PARTS AND COMPONENTS

"Section 1. Coverage.

"The program shall cover the importation of NGV-CNG industry related equipment, parts and components by qualified participants to the NGVPPT at zero duty within the seven-year pilot phase period in accordance with the schedule provided under Annex A of E.O. 396. However, importation of CBU-CNG buses at zero duty is limited to the first 200 units for the Pilot CNG Project."

SECTION 5. Section I, Rule 11 is hereby renumbered as Section 2, Rule 11 and Section 2(c) thereof is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Requirements.

xxx xxx xxx

"c) All applicants complying with the requirements under Section 1(a) hereof shall submit a duly accomplished application form signed by himself or a duly authorized representative, as the case may be, and duly verified together with the following documents for proper evaluation:

- "Pro forma Invoice;
- "Detailed list of items to be imported;
- "Liquidation Report (if applicable, to be submitted within one (1) month from end of each quarter duly signed by the company's authorized representative and duly verified);
- Authenticated Certificate of Compliance with relevant Philippine National Standards and procedures to be submitted prior to the shipment of units from the country of origin."

xxx xxx xxx

SECTION 6. Section 2 is hereby renumbered as Section 3, Rule 11 and Section 3(iv) hereof is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Procedures.

"a) Issuance of CAI:

"iv. The CAI shall be addressed and released to the NGVPPT participants/importer by the DOE-EUMB. All NGVPPT importations shall be processed by the BOC only on the basis of an original CAI. The BOC shall record all importations processed against the CAI running balance on utilization at the back of said CAI. The DOE-EUMB shall provide the BOC and the BOI a list of CAIs issued on a monthly basis for their reference and information. The BOC shall provide the DOE-EUMB and BOI records of importations processed for reference and monitoring purposes."

SECTION 7. The pertinent provisions of Department Circular No. 2004-04-004 not otherwise affected by the above amendments shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 8. This Department Circular shall take effect immediately upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation and submission of three (3) certified copies thereof to the University of the Philippines Law Center.

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila April 20, 2006.

RAPHAEL P. M. LOTILLA
Secretary

Annex 1

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE NGVPPT ACCREDITATION

1. Applicants for NGVPPT accreditation shall fully observe and abide by the provisions of the Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT) and its implementing guidelines as well as the commitments and representations made in the application for accreditation. Applicants shall further take adequate measures to ensure that its obligations therein are faithfully discharged.
2. Participants shall fully comply with the directives and instructions issued by the DOE from time to time in pursuance of its authority under E.O. 66, E.O. 290, E.O. 396 and D.C. 2005-07-006.
3. The CA is non-transferable and participants to the Program shall not transfer and/or assign to any person, partnership, corporation or other entity without the written approval of the DOE.
4. The participant shall allow duly authorized representatives of the DOE to inspect its assembly facilities, manufacturing facilities, refueling stations and other NGV industry related operation/facilities and examine pertinent books of account, records and documents in order to ascertain compliance with the provision of the NGVPPT guidelines, the Supplemental Guidelines to the Program, its commitments and representations, as well as the general and specific terms and conditions of its accreditation.
5. The participant shall not make any changes or deviate from the business plan submitted in connection with its application for accreditation as a participant in Program without prior written DOE approval.
6. The participant's facilities, products and services related to the Program shall be subjected to safety tests in accordance with the duly approved standards and or whenever the DOE so requires.
7. The participant shall be responsible for all expenses that may be incurred in the testing and certification of its facilities, products and services for purposes of meeting the safety and products standard of the natural gas vehicle industry. The DOE, at its sole option, may require that appropriate tests be conducted in acceptable laboratories, located in the country and/or abroad.
8. The participant shall notify the DOE of any adjustments or increase in the retail prices of its products and services two (2) weeks before implementation.
9. The participant shall ensure that the consumers are well informed of the retail prices of its products and services. It shall endeavor to make its authorized dealers observe sound business practices and refrain from any illegal trading activities.
10. The participant shall exert efforts to be properly represented in all meetings that shall be called in connection with the implementation of the NGVPPT Guidelines.
11. The participant shall submit the following reports to the DOE EUMB in accordance with the following schedule:

    a. *Quarterly reports which must be submitted one (1) month after the end of each calendar quarter.*
        1. Accomplishment Report;
        2. Monthly Production and Sales Report (if applicable);
        3. Quarterly schedule of manufacturing cost per model (if applicable);
        4. Quarterly export earnings (if applicable).

    b. *Annual reports which must be submitted one (1) month after the end of each calendar year.*
        1. Accomplishment Report;
        2. Annual Production and Sales Report (if applicable);
        3. Annual schedule of manufacturing cost per model (if applicable);
        4. Annual export earnings (if applicable);
        5. Itemized prices.

    c. *Latest Audited Financial Statements and Income Tax Return one (1) month after submission to BIR*

    d. *Itemized Prices upon the introduction of a new model or change in FOB prices.*

Note: These reports must be submitted using the prescribed forms.

Annex 2-A

APPLICATION FOR NGVPPT ACCREDITATION
"Category I – Manufacture & Assembly of NGVs"
Checklisting Guide

I. Check completeness of documents (3 sets)
- Duly accomplished application form
- MVDP Certificate of Registration
- Business proposal/feasibility study
- Board Resolution authorizing official representative to sign in behalf of the applicant enterprise, if applicable
- Other relevant documents required by the DOE

II. Check correctness of application
- Check if application is duly signed by authorized representative and notarized
- Validate the authenticity of permits and other documents
- Validate the authenticity of the technical licensing agreement with the supplier
- Evaluate the business proposal/feasibility study

Annex 2-B

APPLICATION FOR NGVPPT ACCREDITATION
"Category II – Operation"
Checklisting Guide

I. Check completeness of documents (3 sets)
- Duly accomplished application form
- Duly accomplished project outline form
- Business name and brand name
- Business proposal/feasibility study
- Business permits (DTI, SEC registration, Mayor's Permit, others)
- Income Tax Return from the last three (3) years (or other proof of financial capability, if newly established company)
- Technical Licensing Agreement/Technical Certification (or other proof of technical capability)
- Pictures of terminal/s, if applicable
- Bank Certification, if applicable
- Board Resolution authorizing official representative to sign in behalf of the applicant enterprise, if applicable
- Other relevant documents required by the DOE

II. Check correctness of application
- Check if application is duly signed by authorized representative and notarized
- Validate the authenticity of permits and other documents
- Validate the authenticity of the technical licensing agreement with the supplier
- Evaluate the business proposal/feasibility study

Annex 2-C

APPLICATION FOR NGVPPT ACCREDITATION
"Category III – Re-powering/Retrofit/Conversion"
Checklisting Guide

I. Check completeness of documents (3 sets)
- Duly accomplished application form
- Duly accomplished project outline form
- Business name and brand name
- Business proposal/feasibility study
- Business permits (DTI, SEC registration, Mayor's Permit, others)
- Income Tax Return from the last three (3) years (or other proof of financial, if newly established company)
- Technical Licensing Agreement/Technical Certification
- Certificate of Accreditation of facilities
- Bank certification, if applicable
- Board Resolution authorizing official representative to sign in behalf of the applicant enterprise, if applicable
- Other relevant documents required by the DOE

II. Check correctness of application
- Check if application is duly signed by authorized representative and notarized
- Validate the authenticity of permits and other documents
- Validate the authenticity of the technical licensing agreement with the supplier
- Evaluate the business proposal/feasibility study

Annex 2-D

APPLICATION FOR NGVPPT ACCREDITATION
"Category IV – Refueling Station/Transport"
Checklisting Guide

II. Check completeness of documents (3 sets)
- Duly accomplished application form
- Duly accomplished project outline form
- Business name and brand name
- Business proposal/feasibility study
- Business permits (DTI, SEC registration, Mayor's Permit, others)
- Income Tax Return from the last three (3) years (or other proof of financial, if newly established company)
- Technical Licensing Agreement/Technical Certification
- Bank certification, if applicable
- Board Resolution authorizing official representative to sign in behalf of the applicant enterprise, if applicable
- Other relevant documents required by the DOE

II. Check correctness of application
- Check if application is duly signed by authorized representative and notarized
- Validate the authenticity of permits and other documents
- Validate the authenticity of the technical licensing agreement with the supplier
- Evaluate the business proposal/feasibility study

Annex 3

APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO IMPORT

Checklisting Guide

I. Check completeness of documents (3 sets)
- Proforma Invoice (original/certified true copy)
- Detailed list of parts and/or equipment to be imported
- Liquidation Report (to be submitted within one (1) month from the end of each quarter)
- Authenticated certificate of compliance with relevant Philippine National Standards and procedures (to be submitted before shipment of items)

II. Check correctness of application
- Check description items – those indicated in the invoice should match those indicated in the application
- Check bank information and name of equipment/parts suppliers
- Check correctness of Tariff Heading

Example:

Tariff Heading	Description
7613.00 00	Aluminum containers for compressed or liquefied gas
8407.34 90	Other
8414.90 90	Parts
8702.90 90	Other

- Check if application is duly signed by authorized representative and notarized.

(PDI--May 4, 2006)

Get more value for your ₱

Place your money in Time Deposit

Deposit Amount In Pesos	Interest Rates % 30 days to 3 years
50,000 - 99,999	3.50
100,000 - 499,999	4.50
500,000 - 999,999	5.25
1.0MM - 4.99MM	5.75
5.0MM - 9.99MM	5.75
10.0MM and up	6.00

* 1,2 or 3-year term placement offers monthly credit of interest.
** Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes.

Open an account now at any PSBank branch

PSBank Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK PTD <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000.

Cut in oil import tariff seen

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO CUT THE tariff on oil imports will likely breeze through Tariff Commission deliberations and become an executive order before Congress resumes its session on May 15.

This was because the proposal did not meet any opposition during yesterday's hearing at the Tariff Commission, said Zenaida Monsada, director of the Department of Energy oil industry management bureau.

"Most likely, the EO will be issued before Congress resumes its session on the 15th. Then the mechanics for the implementation will be formulated by the DOE, (Department of Finance and the National Economic and Development Authority)," she said in a briefing.

Like what Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had earlier said, Monsada said the implementation of the tariff reduction would follow the "sliding scale" method, which meant that the current 3-percent tariff would go down by 1 percentage point when world oil prices hit a certain level, and by another percentage point when prices go even higher.

She said the tariff could even go down to zero, if necessary.

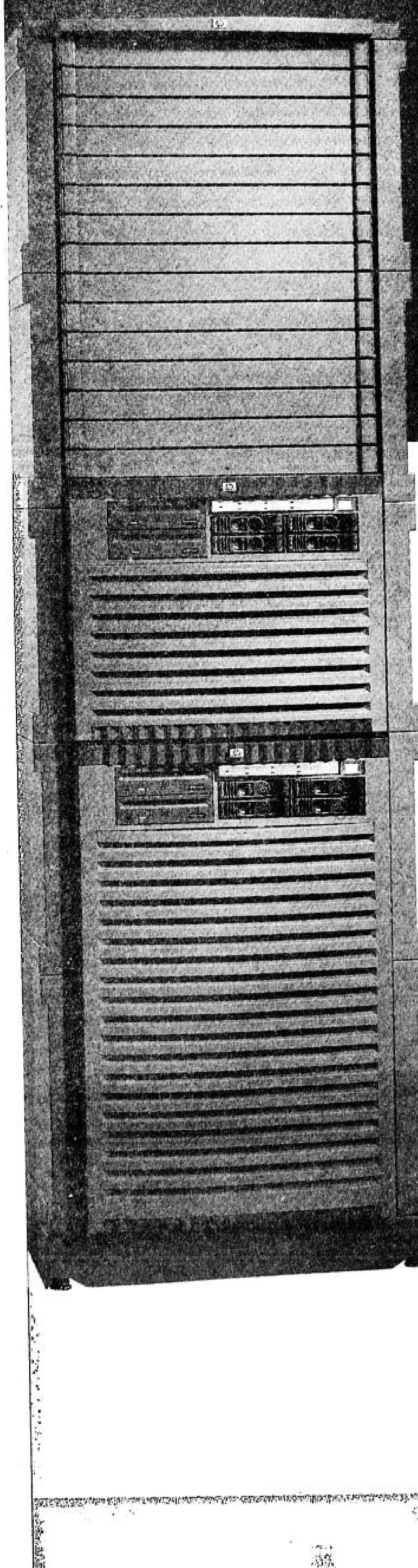
"Those will be in the mechanics, which will come out shortly after the EO. We just have to consider several different scenarios when we formulate those guidelines," she said.

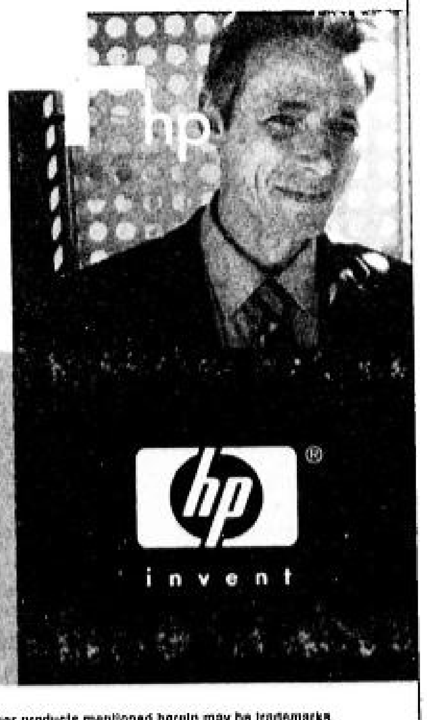
Apart from determining the triggers for each percentage-point drop in the import tariff, she said the DOE, DOF and Neda would also have to consider whether to do a blanket implementation for crude and all types of refined petroleum products or to go for a "focused" implementation.

Focused implementation would mean implementing the reduction for products used by the public transport sector, particularly diesel, she said.

The impact of the tariff reduction on pump prices would also depend on which products would be covered by the tariff cut, she added.

"The target is to maximize the benefit to public transport," she said.





intel Itanium 2 inside

NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE. WHICH MAKES US THE NATURAL ONE.

Only HP Integrity Servers allow you to run your choice of operating systems.

Instead of conforming to proprietary solutions, the HP Integrity Servers let you run your choice of operating systems to help your enterprise maximize return, mitigate risk, and improve performance. Powered by the Intel® Itanium® 2 Processor, these servers offer great flexibility with multi-OS capabilities (HP-UX 11i, Microsoft® Windows®, Linux® and OpenVMS) while supporting over 7,600 industry-leading applications such as SAP, PeopleSoft, BEA, Oracle, Microsoft, SAS, as well as an extensive set of tools and complementary applications. Further enhancements included recently offers increased flexibility and capacity to get more work done across multiple workloads; unprecedented levels of availability and data integrity; and simplified data centre management. HP Integrity Servers help to improve resource utilisation, simplify operations and reduce cost. It is hardly surprising then that some of the world's most demanding workloads adopt HP Integrity solutions, including the world's top 10 Stock Exchanges. Outstanding investment protection, lower total cost of ownership, increased productivity, better agility -- if these are what you are seeking to build an adaptive enterprise, there is no doubt that HP Integrity Servers make the perfect foundation.

To rapidly assemble the best HP Integrity solution for your business needs, visit www.hp.com.my/go/integrity

HP INTEGRITY SERVERS
- Intel® Itanium® 2 Processor
- More flexibility in less than half of the time
- Protect your business with resilient operations powered by HP Integrity systems
- Simplify your data center by consolidating on HP Integrity systems

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com

hp invent

©2006 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8 30 a m to 5 30 p m. L.P.Intel,Intel Logo,Intel Inside,Intel Inside Logo,Itanium and Itanium Inside are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies HP is not liable for editorial,pictorial or typographical errors in this advertisement.

NTC clamps down on 'text spam'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission yesterday clamped down on commercial text messages being broadcast over cellular phone networks in response to mounting complaints from the public.

In a circular, the NTC ordered mobile phone firms' content providers to register with the regulator before being allowed to send so-called "text spam" messages.

NTC, in turn, shall provide the telecommunications firms and the Department of Trade and Industry with a list of content providers authorized to broadcast text spam.

At the same time, NTC ordered all telecommunications firms and their content providers to first register their promos with the DTI before offering them to the public.

Earlier, NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis said complaints lodged with regulators against unwanted spam text messages numbered "in the hundreds."

Some users complain about the inconvenience of receiving unsolicited messages and some complain that they are billed by their cellular phone operators for services without their consent.

Cellular phone firms deny billing clients for these spam messages, although persistent complaints have prompted the NTC to further tighten existing guidelines governing commercial text message broadcasts.

In response to these complaints, NTC also ordered networks to send out broadcast messages only once and free of charge.

NTC also clamped down on broadcast messages sent even to subscribers who have agreed to receive them, mandating that such messages should not be sent to clients from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

This is in response to some complaints from subscribers that text spam messages are often sent in the dead of night, often disturbing their rest.

The new memorandum also orders the creation of a "clearing house" that will monitor the sending of all such messages, although it failed to detail how the system will operate.

Chinese firm eyes hybrid corn project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CHINESE GROUP IS LOOKING AT A PROject that involves planting a million hectares of land with hybrid corn for export to China, according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation.

Philexport president Sergio R. Ortiz-Luis Jr. said the plan was just one of many ventures that provide opportunities for local farmers.

Ortiz-Luis did not give further details on the Chinese project but said the trend in agri-business was for farmers to partner with big food processors like San Miguel Foods and Vitarich that are searching for contract growing partners.

Another option was to go into agri-forestry amid a shortage in supply of furniture-grade plantation timber for the furniture industry.

In a speech delivered during the 56th graduation rites at the Central Luzon State University, the center of agriculture and fisheries education in Nueva Ecija, Ortiz-Luis called on new graduates to put up businesses and help boost the sector's output growth.

"Unless and until the farming sector gets modernized and its productivity increased, the Philippines will remain a third world country in a neighborhood of economic dragons," he said.

Ortiz-Luis, who is also chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the farm sector grew only at an average of 2.8 percent a year from 1994 to 2004 or barely faster than the country's population growth.

He said that the sector failed to progress because those engaged in agriculture treated farming only as a source of subsistence, not as a business enterprise.

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

…age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Grab a Nokia 6020!
NOW FREE @ Plan 600*
Only ₱4,500 @ Plan 350*

- Integrated Camera
- MMS, GPRS, Email, Chat, JAVA-capable
- Camcorder for clips up to 50 seconds

sun CELLULAR

MONDAY A… S ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

SALADS SPECIAL

Keep cool and serve salads. Pick the freshest veggies at the weekend 'tiangge.' Try Asian or Pinoy dressings. Or do as the chefs do and hit the salad bar at any of the restaurants in town

GREEN salad by former Diamond Hotel chef Raimund Braun

The perfect green salad

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

DON'T WE ALL JUST LOVE A good salad? But have we ever gone out of our way to know what a salad is? Or have we truly enjoyed it the way we should? How does one make the Perfect Green Salad?

"A salad is a food item generally served either before or after the main dish as a separate course, as a main course in itself, or as a side dish accompanying the main dish. The word 'salad' comes from the French *salade* of the same meaning, from the Latin *salata*, 'salty,' from *sal*, 'salt.' It also refers to a blended food item—often meat, seafood or eggs blended with mayonnaise, finely chopped vegetables and seasonings—which can be served as part of a green salad, but is often used as a sandwich filling."

There are various types of salads but today let's focus on the green salad.

Tips for the PGS

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend time with two Michelin star chefs in Singapore. I asked them their thoughts on what a salad should be and what makes the perfect salad...

Chef Kevin Thornton says: "The art of making salad is simple. Everything must be fresh! I use greens, whatever is in season. The difference is that, unlike you guys, we have seasons and that allows us to make use of various ingredients and change them as the seasons change. That way I know that the produce is at its prime. My dream is to have my own garden where I could pick everything off just before service. And my favorite dressing is a simple one made of garlic, olive oil, basil, parmesan cheese, salt and pepper. All these are blended and emulsified."

Icon chef Philippe Legendre adds: "I like picking my own salad greens. I like using the wild ones. It is always about high- and good-quality products—only the freshest will do. I do not like many kinds put together or a salad of many ingredients. I like mine to be just of one kind, freshly picked and dribbled with no more than a good olive oil, just that! Or with a little salt and pepper and sometimes, vinegar. Then, I get to enjoy the greens."

To sum up, a good salad is quite simple to achieve. It must comprise of the freshest greens and the best olive oil. It is about discovering the vegetables and not masking them with such intense flavors from the dressing. And a good salad should be coated in dressing and not swimming in it!

It may not be as easy for us to get freshly picked greens, but not impossible, as I have seen potted lettuce plants in the supermarket. The next best thing is to go for the many types of lettuce readily available. There are even Salad Time packs of mixed greens that are

THE PERFECT/ C2

Catering Course Plus...

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Maya Kitchen customizes cooking classes to fit your interests, experience, and confidence in the kitchen. Whatever your age or culinary background, our courses provide an infinite number of culinary possibilities from low cost but high profitability caterer's courses to career courses & summer's favorite kiddie cooking classes. Sign up now!

Pasta Cooking Class: May 6 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Lasagna, Cannelloni, Ravioli, Spaghetti Carbonara, Putanesca Penne, Pesto Linguini, Angel's Hair Oglio Olio, Flavored Pasta. P900.

Catering Seminar: May 10 - 12 (W-F) 3-6 p.m. Legal & technical aspect to get started in catering business, facilities, personnel, menu including portioning and quantification. Actual cooking preparation of Stuffed Chicken Thighs, Vegetable Samosa, Honey Garlic Ribs & Wings, Eggplant Skordalia, Quiche Lorraine & Peking Chicken Bites. P3,000 with free catering cookbook.

Low Cost Meals for Catering: May 13 (Sat) 2 - 6 p.m. Siomai, Embutido, Spicy Wings, Barbecue, Chicken Ham, Basic Meatballs. Tips on how to use food extenders & extend shelf life with costing by Ms. Lourdes Rivera, Meat Processing Guru. P1,000.

Japanese Cooking: May 20 (Sat) 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Miso soup, Mixed Tempura, Kamameshi, Assorted Sushi & Sashimi, Sukiyaki by Japanese teacher. Free cookbook. P1,000.

Low Calorie Cooking: May 24 & 25 (W-Th) 2-5 p.m. Puree of Onion Leek & Celery Soup, Grilled Chicken w/ Salsa Sauce, Pork & Lettuce Rolls, Crispy Baked Fish, Tofu Stroganoff, Mango Sorbet w/ lecture on how to calculate calorie requirements, tips on low calorie cooking. Free cookbook P1,500.

Dimsum: May 27 (Sat) 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Pork & Vegetable Dumplings, Fish balls, Siopao-Cuapao, Kikiam, Chicken Feet and Buchi. Bonus: Sweet Chili Sauce & Fishball Sauce. P1,000.

CERTIFICATE COURSES WITH HANDS-ON (Pre-registration required)

Basic Culinary Course: May 9-12/23-26 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proper hygiene, sanitation and safety; nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en-place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations, proper purchasing, storage, techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. With actual preparation of dishes from appetizer to dessert including garnishing for plate presentation. Free Mix & Match cookbook. P5,000.

Cake Decorating: May 13 & 20 (Sat) 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring; icing (boiled, caramel, chocolate, sugar, icing); basic borders, jelly lettering, basic flowers including bunching techniques. Individual workshop on icing application and cake designing. P3,000.

Fundamentals of Bakery Production: May 16-19/May 30-June 2 (T-F) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Standard baking techniques applicable to baking application on the use of ready mixes, yeast bread, quick breads, pies, cookies & cakes. P4,000.

SPECIAL SUMMER COOKING CLASSES FOR KIDS AND TEENS

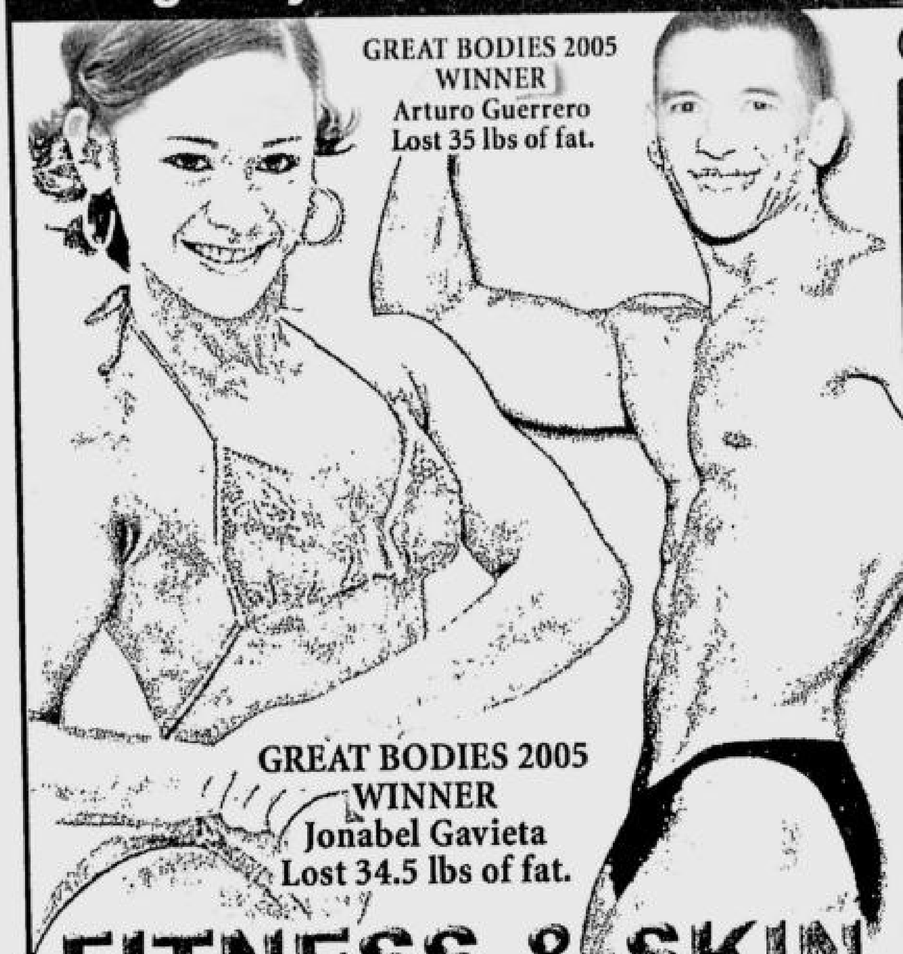
Kiddie Party Cooking: for 4-6 years old kids: May 6 (Sat) 3-6 p.m. Purple Cow Shake, Strawberry Shortcakes & Edible Fish Ball plus decorate your own apron activity. P750.

Young People's Cook-in (YPCI): May 17-19 (W-F) 2-5 p.m. Corned Beef Hash, Hotdog Bean Soup, 5 minute Lasagna, Peach Melba, Fruity Coleslaw, Peanut Butter Chicken, Pasta Carbonara, Fruit Compote, Very Veggie Soup, Sausage Roll-Up, Swedish Meatballs & Almond Float w/ Fruits. P2,000.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays thru Saturdays) at 8th floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City or call tel. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108; or e-mail us at *mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph*

Lose 20% of your body fat. Reduce your weight by 10, 20, 30 or more pounds!

SLIMMERS WORLD
THE ULTIMATE IN FITNESS, SKIN & BODY TREATMENTS



ONLY P45* PER DAY

FREE 5 PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS*

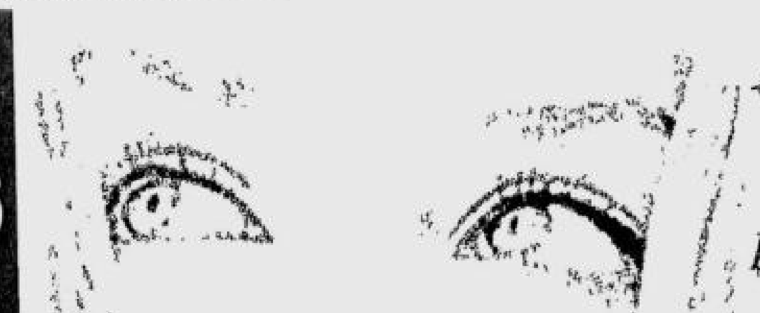
NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.

FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333
MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

SLIMMERS WORLD Face, Skin & Cosmetic

BODY SCRUB SKIN WHITENING AQUAMID BOTOX RESTYLANE
PERLANE FACIAL LASER ACNE TREATMENT WART REMOVAL
NUTRACELL-FACE PERMANENT LASER HAIR REMOVAL

GREAT SAVINGS FOR MAY!!!
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE!



Diamond Ultrapeel
For beautiful smooth white skin...

The latest technology in slimming and firming from Europe... MESOTHERAPY

CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Roda/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Juna/Anne 231-3254
GREENHILLS Anna 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Ruby 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan/Val 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Dino/Jiggs/Haydee 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Emily 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314

Where do chefs and foodies like to get their green leaves of summer? Read on

ANTONIO'S mixed green salad with fruits and nuts

THIEN Dong's Vietnamese Pomelo and Shrimp Salad

A GLASS of light salad from Edsa Shangri-La's Heat

REFRESHING array of salads from Makati Shangri-La's Circles

Salad days

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

IF YOU HAVE A CRAVING FOR salad, if you're dreaming of a mountain of fresh, crisp greens drizzled with tangy dressing and topped with sweet-peppery croutons and creamy shavings of cheese, where do you go?

We asked certified foodies, restaurateurs, chefs and true-blue salad eaters where they get their "green fix." Here's what they told us.

Johnlu Koa
Baking expert and French Baker owner

"I head for Shangri-La Makati's Circles or Edsa Shangri-La's Heat and go straight to the salad bar. I like Romaine lettuce, arugula, endive and iceberg, and my favorite dressings are Caesar, honey mustard and honey balsamic."

Eugene Raymundo
Chef and food stylist

"I go to Italianni's for its salads. I just love their hefty serving of fresh greens with Caesar dressing plus the chicken fillet that goes well with everything on the plate. My perfect dinner on a night out!

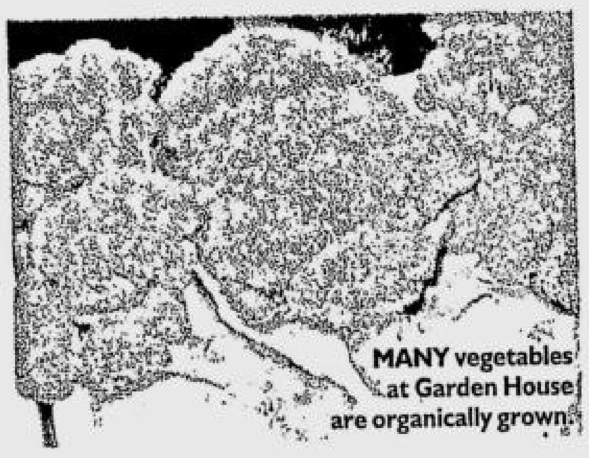
"I usually make my own salad at home with greens and fruits, either dried or fresh, a splash of olive oil and balsamic as my all-time favorite. I also make wasabi vinaigrette with mango and kani."

Malu Gamboa
Food expert and restaurateur

"Tsukiji's Kaiso (Seaweed) salad, People's Palace's Pomelo Salad, Antonio's mixed green salad with herbs, parmesan and raspberry vinaigrette, Cirkulo's Caesar and Insalata di Gorgonzola. These places serve their salads and dressings cold, which makes all the difference. Their greens and fruits are fresh and crisp, and the dressing never drowns the greens.

"I am a fan of Caesar salads and have fond memories of Mario's in Baguio when I was little... They made iceberg lettuce delicious! Today, I usually order mixed greens with vinai-

People who run around Metro Manila trying to catch half-day weekend markets can now have two days to do their shopping and in just one place


MANY vegetables at Garden House are organically grown

Fresh produce 'tiangge' opens

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

ASPARAGUS SPEARS FROM POLOmolok, South Cotabato, plump tomatoes from Batangas and organically grown lettuce from Tagaytay—these are just some of the things on offer at the new Edsa Garden House, described as a "flower and agricultural growers' flea market."

People who spend weekends just trying to catch half-day produce *tiangges* held in different parts of Metro Manila will be pleased to know that now they have all of two days to shop for some hard-to-find food stuff and organically grown agricultural products.

Unlike in supermarkets and even wet markets, the vendors are often the growers themselves, eliminating the middleperson that usually accounts for higher prices.

And these small producers often have surprises in store for customers. As devotees of weekend *tiangges* know, you can count on finding a few bunches of freshly picked *pako* and some other greens you probably have not heard of before, *paho* (small green mangoes that some people swear are better for salad than the big ones), newly harvested seaweeds and even the now rare *rimas* (although it is not really salad material).

Located at the Manila Seedling Bank, on the Edsa side, near the corner of Quezon Avenue, the 5,000-sq m shop was set up by Adela Ang to help promote Filipino products. It provides small-scale producers, recreational farmers, hobbyists and others, who move around the different *tiangge* venues, a regular weekend space for selling their products should they so wish.

As the name suggests, Edsa Garden House's business for seven days a week will be plants, fresh flowers and garden supplies and accessories. But on Saturdays and Sundays, the parking area will be given over to small- and medium-scale producers who are expected to bring, aside from fresh vegetables and fruits, fish, meat products and regional Filipino delicacies.

Among the first to set up stalls in the market are several organic vegetable producers, including the Organic Producers Trade Association cooperative, Ikapati, Back to Basic, Gourmet Farm and Earthworm Sanctuary.

THE "MOVEABLE" fresh produce *tiangge* settles down at Garden House.

Two or three bakeries which eschew preservatives and other chemicals have also set up shop, as well as a lawyer who is a petshop owner on the side.

Aside from giving small producers a venue for selling their products, the Edsa Garden House also organizes lectures and workshops for those who would like to learn about gardening and farming either for livelihood or recreation.

The Edsa Garden House will be formally opened on May 12.

The perfect green salad

From page C1

ready to be tossed.

Remember that by the look of the vegetable alone, you can tell if it is fresh. The leaves must be upright and the stems still firm and "crisp" to the touch.

Once you get home, wash the greens in a bowl filled with cold water, carefully handling them by the stem base, running them through the water bowl gently to avoid bruising the leaves. Remove any discolored portions of the leaves and prepare according to how you wish to serve them.

It is important to completely dry the greens to avoid diluting the dressing, thus ruining the salad. The leaves should then be kept in a zipper bag in the refrigerator until the greens are ready to be tossed and served.

Oil is a vital ingredient in salad making. Different oils may be used to attain different flavors. However, olive oil is the most formidable of salad oils. If you are to serve salads with just oil and vinegar, make sure that the olive oil you use is the best you can possibly find.

Let's talk about vinegar. A good rule for this is use your vinegar of choice. There are many flavored ones in the market specifically for salads. Just remember to use vinegar with acidity levels of five to six percent. If it's too strong, it overpowers the greens. If you must, lessen the quantity.

French toss

In a salad bowl, pour the dressing. Using the "serving" salad spoon and fork, make an "X" and let the utensils sit in the bowl. Just before serving, drop the greens and toss. The host gets upper portion of the salad (least dressed), the bottom leaves go to the guests (perfectly dressed). Tossing the greens must be done only before serving! You would not like a soggy salad!

Pinoy dressings

I have featured salads and salad dressings time and again in KR. So today, let's do dressings with a Pinoy twist.

Mango Dressing:
¼ c mango or guava jam
3 tbsp vinegar
¼ c olive or vegetable oil
Salt and pepper, to taste

Whisk jam, vinegar. Add oil in a fine stream. Season to taste.

Muscovado Dressing:
3 tbsp olive or vegetable oil
2 tsp garlic
1/3 c rice vinegar
2 tbsp fresh lime juice
¼ c muscovado sugar
1 tbsp chili garlic oil

Whisk ingredients together. Season to taste.

My hands-on cooking class series for teens, newlyweds and beginners starts next week. Call 9289296 or 6335162

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph.

Red

FILIPINOS HAVE T
mode if we are aske
a separate course.
Why? Because we serv
That means everything o
once told me that when
mom's (Nora V. Daza) A
Paris, the code word was
ing, all courses served at
the dessert, of course.
served after the meal.
For Filipinos, salad doe
bles and dressing. There
vorite being canned fru
dressing. Then there are
naise dressing such as
Russian salad with the re
con bits, and coleslaw, an
their way into fiesta buff

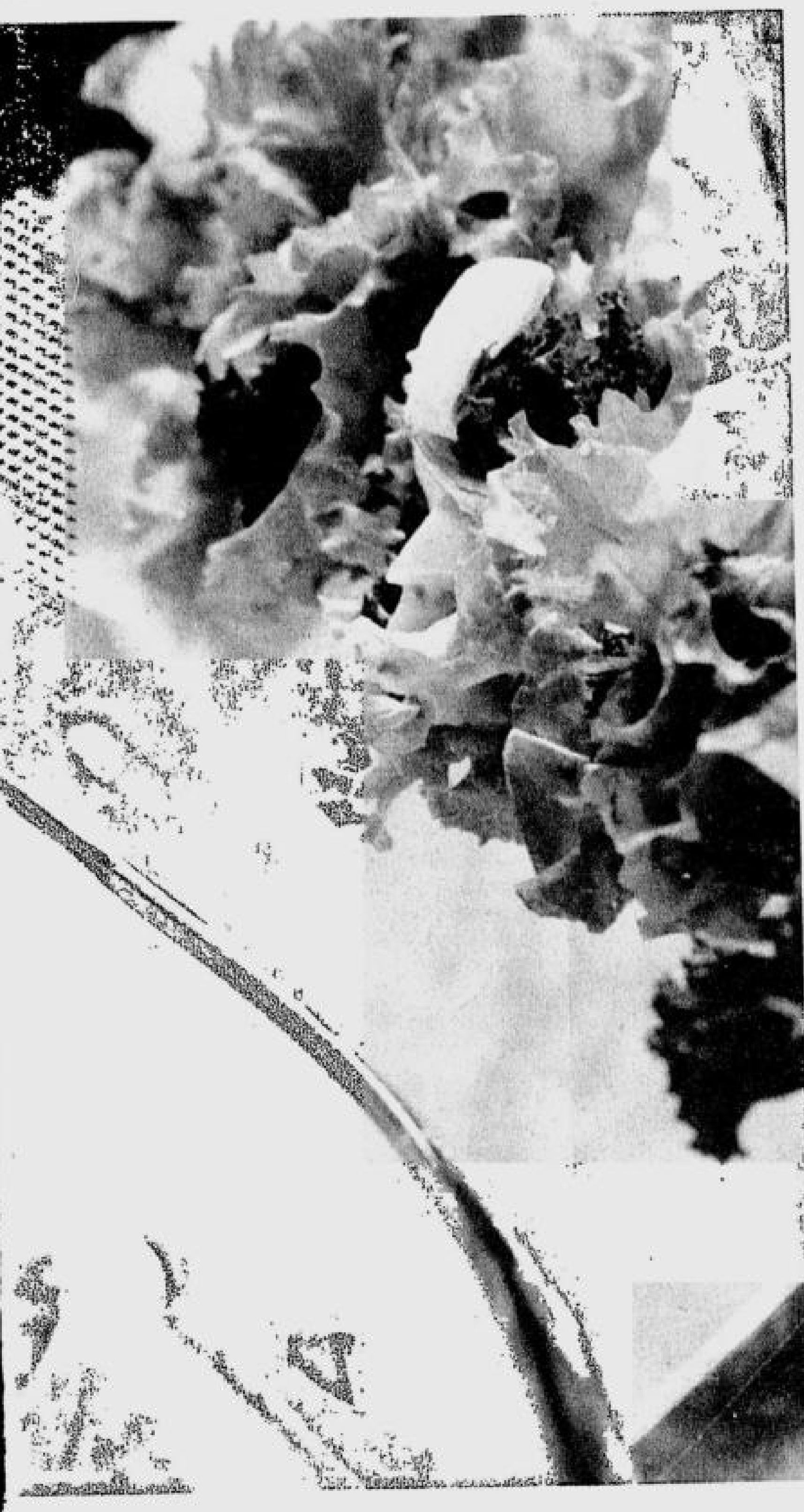
Side dish

The everyday salad is
dish, something that g
The salad usually consis
easily here such as cucum
pako and *sayote* sprouts.
the basic Filipino vinaig
water, salt, pepper and s
pickled vegetables are so
salads because they prov
terpoint to rich dishes an
A long time ago, if g
were always iceberg lett
ly available lettuce grow
dressing was Thousand Is
relish, catsup. There's a
minded waitress who ca
dred islands." She proba
natural wonder in Pangas
dressing "renamed," it
using sandwich spread
mayonnaise and pickle r
When romaine, the c
salad became available,
dain the crunchy and su
berg lettuce.
Baguio provided the
mate needed to grow w
digenously Filipino gree
Tagaytay that started the
ad revolution. And, parti
was the late Old Kan
Amann) who showed th
route to Filipinos.

Pioneer

Old Kano was a pion
growing not only dif
kinds of lettuces but also
in his farm. He had befr
expatriate chefs who h
hotel kitchens. Werner
of Santi's Deli remembe
Kano delivering his fr
herbs to the Yakal Stree
Makati in 1984 on a Lan
Italian scooter. Santi's
outlet for Old Kano's pro
the ordinary consumer c
herbs or lettuce from the
Old Kano would point
say this is for chef so-an
those vegetables himsel
the chefs was he woul
were rotting in the refrig

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



grette, with granny smith apples or mandarin oranges, crisp cucumber, ripe tomatoes, walnuts or crunchy croutons. Another favorite is arugula with buffalo mozzarella, basil, tomatoes, olive oil.

"Whenever I make my own salads and don't opt for my brother J's fab sherry vinaigrette, I go for Japanese dressings like Wafu and Goma (available at Sakura on Pasay Road). Blue Kitchen's Vietnamese Lime Salad dressing is a winner."

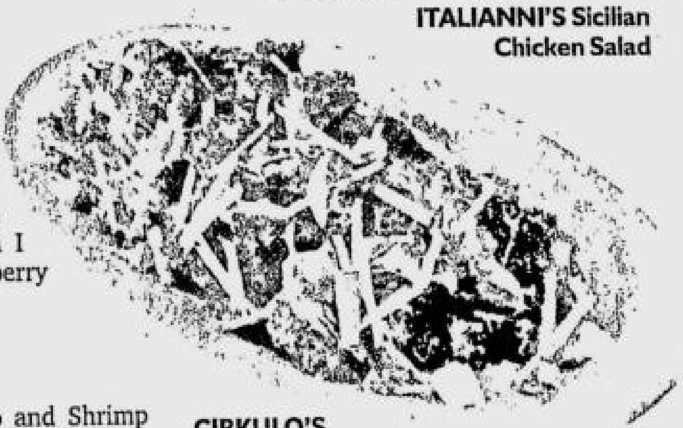
Robert Castaneda
Foodie and restaurateur

"I go to Italianni's for its huge servings of salads. Very filling. I also visit Sonia's Garden because their veggies are clean and freshly picked. I love veggies with fruits, and when I make my own salad I use raspberry vinaigrette."

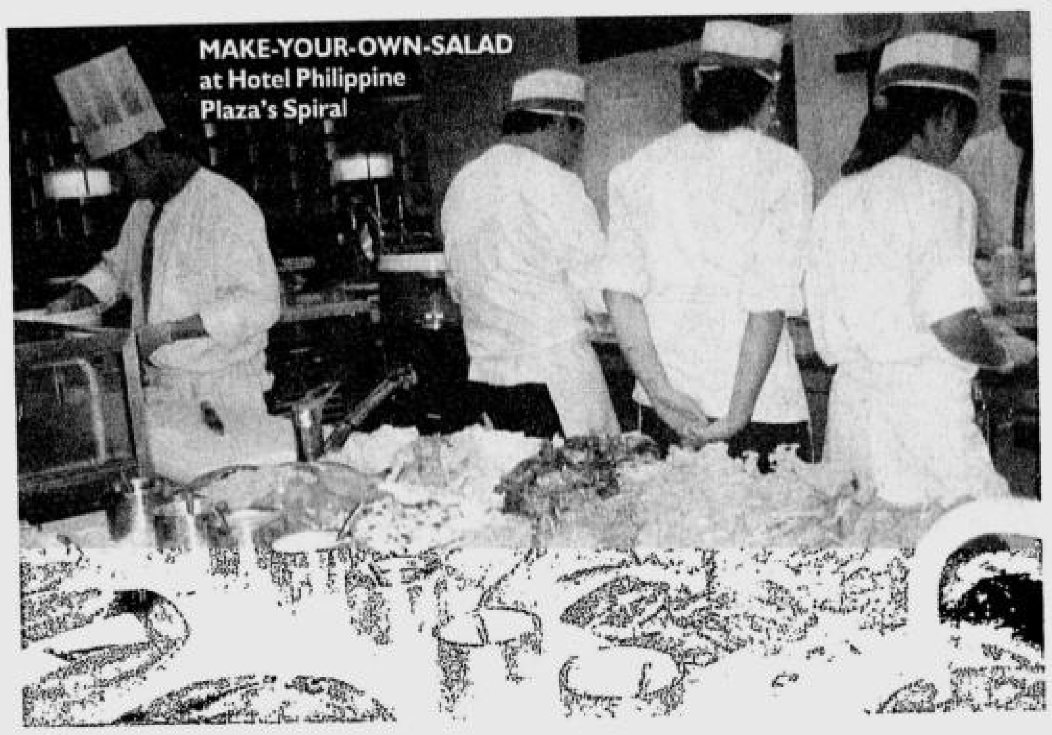
Joanne Limoanco
Sous chef Dusit Hotel

"I enjoy Vietnamese Pomelo and Shrimp Salad from Thien Dong because it's just so refreshing and almost guilt free. I love salads that combine fruits with fresh greens. I love making my own Caesar dressing because I like it with more anchovies than the usual."

ITALIANNI'S Sicilian Chicken Salad



CIRKULO'S Insalata di Gorgonzola



MAKE-YOUR-OWN-SALAD at Hotel Philippine Plaza's Spiral

Nancy Reyes-Lumen
Chef and Cook magazine editor

"Daikon salad of Sakura Yakiniku on Pasay Road is the best. Also exceptional are Italianni's for big servings of Caesar and Uva, which has a nice "chop chop" salad. I also go to buffets with big salad bars like Mandarin, Philippine Plaza and Shangri-La.

"For Pinoy salad, it's best to make your own with *macopa, kesong puti*, ripe mango, tomatoes and basil and lime leaves. Dressing for me is vinaigrette, but when I want to indulge, I make sour cream and adobo powder dressing and add parmesan. *Meron ding masarap sa akin*, boiled beetroot and cucumber and celery and yakon with Asian dressing. *Talap-talap!*"

Happy Ongpauco
Sake Lab owner

"Lolo Dad's Lobster and Foie Gras Salad and Hawaiian Barbecue's Grilled Chicken with pomelo, grapes, orange slices and avocado chunks on a bed of salad greens with raspberry vinaigrette sprinkled with roasted almonds.

"If I make my own salad, I make different fruit-flavored vinaigrette dressings. It's sweet, flavorful and tasty, at the same time low in calories."

Jacqueline Alleje
Restaurateur and organic believer

"I'd like to go to places where lettuce and salad herbs are organically grown. Some hotels do get organic lettuce, but not regularly. For lacto-ovo vegetarian, the Ricotta-orange salad of La Trattoria Gourmet in Shangri-La Plaza Mall is a good choice since it is a source of fresh salad greens, proteins and a straightforward, well-seasoned vinaigrette...

"I love lots of freshly picked culinary herbs on my salads. Sometimes I make a herb cocktail with Italian flat parsley, coriander, basil, dill and mix them with a vinaigrette or an oil-free salad dressing. I use fruits only sparingly in salads, but they can be excellent matches."

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

---

efining the salad, Filipino-style

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

GO INTO WESTERN
d to do and eat salad as

our food family style.
the table. Sandy Daza
Filipinos dined at his
ux Iles Philippines in
"*sabay bagsak*," mean-
he same time. Save for
weets will always be

sn't only mean vegeta-
re fruit salads, our fa-
s with a heavy cream
those that use mayon-
acaroni with chicken,
beets, potato with ba-
ong others. Those find
ts.

not a course but a side
es with other viands.
s of plants that grow
ber, fiddlehead fern or
The usual dressing is
ette of vinegar, some
gar. Maybe that's why
netimes considered as
le the same sour coun-
simply grilled items.
eens were used, they
e. Iceberg was the on-
n in Baguio. Preferred
and, mayo with pickle
joke about an absent-
led the dressing "hun-
ly confused it with the
inan. Not only was the
ad also reformulated
because it combined
lish.
oice green for Caesar
lad snobs grew to dis-
denly hoi polloi ice-

temperate cli-
at is not in-
. But it was
green-sal-
ularly, it
(Fred
salad

er in
erent
herbs
nded
aded
berger
rs Old
t. fresh
shop in
bretta, an
became an
luce because
uldn't buy any
arm.
out certain plots and
l-so. He would deliver
What endeared him to
replace lettuces that
rators at no cost. And,

of course, he would take beer with them while the produce were being sorted and placed into storage.

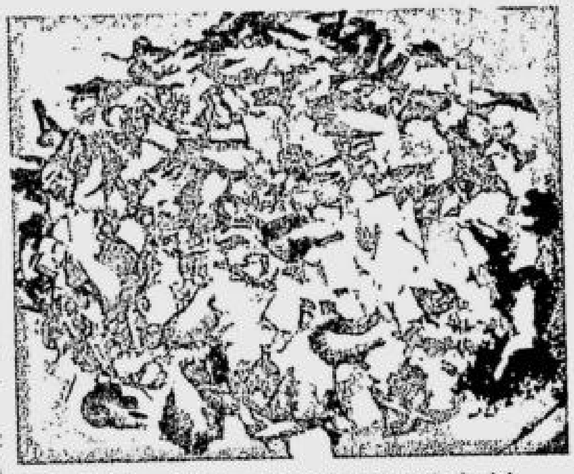
They were enthralled by this ex-GI who took up agriculture in a university here, bought seeds in the United States, planted those and did the marketing himself. He also discovered that coffee hulls, discarded after the beans were processed, made for a good fertilizer.

And so we know and use romaine, Lollo Rosa, red top, rocket or arugula, red-leaf, oak-leaf and curly endive.

Broader repertoire

Through the years, we've added to our repertoire of dressing—honey-mustard, olive oil and balsamic vinegar combo, red wine vinaigrette, ranch, blue cheese.

Some eat only green salads for health or diet reasons. And fast-food joints, realizing the trend, provide salad choices as part of their offerings. The move not only is a wise business decision, it also helps project the image that fast food can serve healthy dishes.



POTTERY artist Ugu Bigyan's *pako* salad with ternate flowers

A VERSION of the *pako* salad with salted eggs and tomato

But all that's in the Western mode. I suggest we go on Filipino mode and redefine the salad.

Why not *lumpia* or the spring roll? Here, sliced vegetables are gathered in a rice-flour wrapper. You have the crunch of fried *lumpia* and the variety of textures in a fresh one. There's the *ubod* wrapped in delicate crepes. The dip can be the dressing, vinegar or the *paalat*, a brown sauce of sugar, soy sauce, broth, salt, cornstarch and minced garlic.

You can look to our seas and get another kind of salad. Seaweeds! The most common in the market and all over the country is *arosep* or *lato*, those grape-like wonders. A British tourist described every bite of *lato* as squirts of the sea in your mouth in small doses.

In Cebu recently, I had the branch-like *guso* and the thin strands of *lukot*. The *lukot* is almost like green angel-hair pasta. Usually, the green is offset by red tomato and given a touch of vinegar to temper the naturally salty seaweeds.

Pako or fiddlehead fern is sometimes cooked with fish and coconut milk or taken fresh with the Filipino vinaigrette. Some people like to mix in some *kesong puti*, tomatoes or sliced salted eggs.

Our mixed greens consist of boiled vegetables—*ampalaya, kangkong*, okra and eggplant. It's *bagoong isda* or *alamang* that's the dip/dressing.

Artist's salad

Boiling slices of banana heart is how the *kulawo* starts. The potter artist Ugu Bigyan once demonstrated the dish at his place in Tiaong, Quezon. The dressing consisted of smoky coconut milk pressed from grated coconut roasted expertly in charcoal. Vinegar is then then added. Bigyan placed on top, for color, edible electric-blue *ternate* flowers.

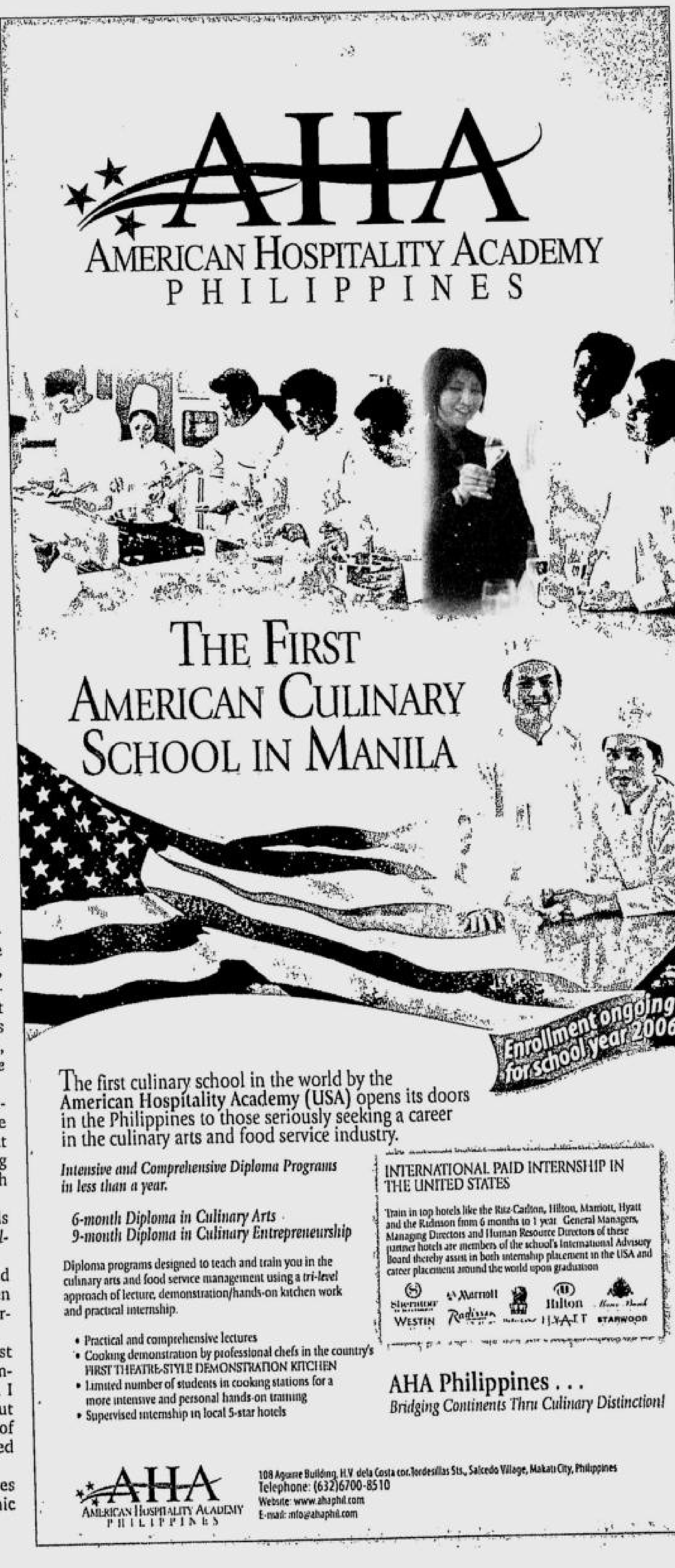
The flowers also make a dish beautiful. Apart from *ternate*, there are the *katuray*, white flowers that don't deserve the awful-sounding name, and the yellowish squash flowers.

So we do have Filipino salads except they aren't called so. *Ensalada* is a new invention.

And because we have learned techniques from other cuisine, then we can add to the *ensalada* repertoire.

For instance, an aunt made the best *ampalaya* salad with mayonnaise, a combination I thought was unthinkable until I tasted how good it was, not at all bitter but had a balance of sweet and salty flavors, a lot of crunch, and mixed in with small, boiled red shrimps.

And for *sayote* sprouts, a friend combines chopped red eggs with olive oil and balsamic vinegar for the dressing.



AHA
AMERICAN HOSPITALITY ACADEMY
PHILIPPINES

THE FIRST AMERICAN CULINARY SCHOOL IN MANILA

Enrollment ongoing for school year 2006

The first culinary school in the world by the American Hospitality Academy (USA) opens its doors in the Philippines to those seriously seeking a career in the culinary arts and food service industry.

Intensive and Comprehensive Diploma Programs in less than a year.

6-month Diploma in Culinary Arts
9-month Diploma in Culinary Entrepreneurship

Diploma programs designed to teach and train you in the culinary arts and food service management using a tri-level approach of lecture, demonstration/hands-on kitchen work and practical internship.

- Practical and comprehensive lectures
- Cooking demonstration by professional chefs in the country's FIRST THEATRE-STYLE DEMONSTRATION KITCHEN
- Limited number of students in cooking stations for a more intensive and personal hands-on training
- Supervised internship in local 5-star hotels

INTERNATIONAL PAID INTERNSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES

Train in top hotels like the Ritz-Carlton, Hilton, Marriott, Hyatt and the Radisson from 6 months to 1 year. General Managers, Managing Directors and Human Resource Directors of these partner hotels are members of the school's International Advisory Board thereby assist in both internship placement in the USA and career placement around the world upon graduation

AHA Philippines . . .
Bridging Continents Thru Culinary Distinction!

AHA
AMERICAN HOSPITALITY ACADEMY
PHILIPPINES

108 Aguirre Building, H.V. dela Costa cor. Tordesillas Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Philippines
Telephone: (632)6700-8510
Website: www.ahaphil.com
E-mail: info@ahaphil.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Thai guest chef presents signature dishes

DINING OUT

THE PENINSULA MANILA'S Spices is holding a Thai food festival on May 6-20. Guest chef Sumalee Boonek of the Peninsula Bangkok's Thiptara Thai restaurant will be recreating her own signature dishes such as Gai Yang Ta-Krai (barbecued-marinated chicken with lemongrass and sweet and sour sauce), Choo Chee Pla-Ka-Phong (sea bass with red curry cream sauce) and Yum Som-O Goong Phao (grilled prawn salad with pomelo). Call 8872888.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL Manila's Tin Hau is featuring Old Style Cantonese until May 14. Ingredients purchased and prepared on the same day are cooked just before serving and are presented in an a la carte menu. Dishes include Braised Abalone with Sea Cucumber, Duck Feet and Green Vegetables; Oven-baked Eel Fillet with Honey Sauce; Stir-fried Mian Xian with Slipper Lobster; Charcoal-roasted Honey Pork Coin with Sesame Seed; Braised Fish Lips, Dried Scallops and Mushroom Soup topped with quail egg; Imperial Chicken; and Baked Pork Spareribs with fermented bean curd. Available daily for lunch and dinner. Call 7508888.

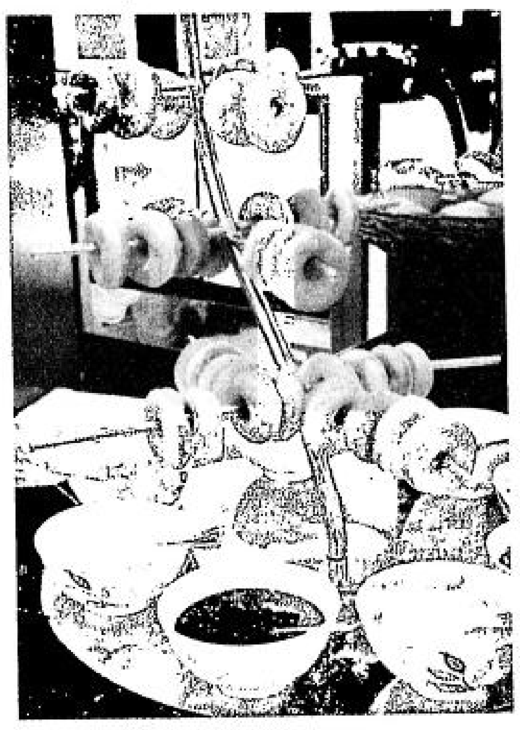
ITALIANNI'S chef Junjun de Ocampo has come up with a new selection of dishes, including Prosciutto and Provolone Crostini, traditional Italian ham served with toasted Tuscan bread topped with tomatoes and crowned with creamy provolone cheese with sweet cantaloupe and grapes on the side; Parmesan Crusted Fish Fillet, white fish breaded with parmesan crusts and topped with white wine cream caper sauce and served with shoestring potato pancake and mixed vegetables; Roasted Garlic Shrimp, a variation of the classic spicy gambas best eaten with garlic bread. Seafood lovers can try the Crispy Crab Cakes with Mango Salsa, crab and salmon patties served with mango salsa and honey mustard sauce. Available in all Italianni's restaurants located at Greenbelt 2 and Glorietta 4, Makati; Alabang Town Center; Greenhills, San Juan; Eastwood, Libis, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, and Tomas Morato, QC; and SM Megamall. A new branch opens at SM Mall of Asia this month.

MANILA PAVILION'S Rotisserie presents Antipasto Bar. The antipasto lineup includes Parma Ham and Melon, Buffalo Mozzarella and Tomatoes in Basil Oil, Seared Tuna Romana, Liver Paté with Crostini, Prawns and Eggplant Brushettas, Venitienne Salad with Black Olives, Smoked Salmon and Onion Marmalade, and Mixed Greens with Condiments and Dressing. Available until April 29, Mondays through Fridays, lunch and dinner and Saturdays for dinner only, priced at P650+ per person. Call 5261212 local 2505.

M CAFÉ offers desserts in servings big enough for two people, including Mango Stick Rice, the unique combination of the native *kakanin* and mango. New concoctions are the Caramelized Banana Tart, Brazo de Limon, and the Gratinated Guimaras Mango, among others. An assortment of Asian sorbet and gelato are also available like the Guava Guyabano Sorbet and the Pastillas Gelato. The health-conscious can enjoy the Sugar-free Barako Mousse and Green Tea Gelato. Call 7573000 or 7576000.

HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA'S Spiral restaurant has the Never Again promo until tomorrow, May 5. Every group of six partaking of the Spiral lunch or dinner buffet will get one voucher for a complimentary jet lag massage, two complimentary aqua golf vouchers, three complimentary drinks for the Poolside Barbecue dinner, four poolview upgrade vouchers and five raffle coupons for a chance to stay in the Imperial Suite. Call 5515555 local 1086 and mention the Never Again promo when making reservations.

CHILI'S GRILL and Bar has a new salad for the health-conscious—the Lettuce Wraps, grilled Asian-spiced chicken with carrots, water chestnuts and almonds wrapped in a piece of lettuce and dipped in either a seasoned ginger or peanut sauce. Chili's branches are located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City (8120225); Northeast Greenhills in San Juan (7272959) or Tomas Morato Avenue, QC (3725017).



MANILA PAVILION Hotel's newly opened Seasons restaurant features different stations, which are further divided into corners. The hot station has the pizza, paella, barbecue, pasta, carving and rotisserie corners. The cold station offers bread and cheese, salads, Italian antipasto, Chinese and Japanese appetizers, and shellfish corners. Three kinds of soup (Filipino, Chinese and international) are at the soup and dim sum station. Donut, creative cakes, ice cream and *halo-halo*, waffle and crepe, and native desserts corners are at the pastry station. Seasons at Manila Pavilion is open 6 a.m.-12 midnight daily. Call 5261212 local 2318.

Cooking demo at the mall

LEARN EASY, DELICIOUS AND practical recipes for the hottest season of the year.

Join "Mobile Kusina" at the mall, a free cooking demonstration, 1-4 p.m., May 7 at the Atrium of SM Baguio. Get cooking tips and learn techniques from chef Morella Gala of Khaldi's Café, with Mobile Kusina chefs.

Simply bring three empty wrappers of Magnolia Quickmelt, Dari Creme, Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Purefoods Supremo Vinegar, Magnolia Nutri Oil and/or Purefoods TJ Hotdogs at the venue. My Great Food Club members are encouraged to attend.

Call 6719876 local 402, 404 and 405.

CAKES FOR ALL OCCASIONS
Make a special event truly memorable with a one-of-a-kind cake from Cake Avenue, 78 Estrella St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 8952579 or 8983557 to order a Cake Avenue cake. For appointments, call or text 0917-8952579.

Pizza Hut
NEW Cheesy Volcano
AN EXPLOSION OF 3 CHEESES BURSTING FROM THE CRUST!
MOZZARELLA
PROVOLONE
CHEDDAR
NESTEA
Get a free*
caesar salad OR 2 cream of mushroom soup OR upgrade to bottomless NESTEA Serenity green tea
* with an order of a Regular Cheesy Volcano Pizza & 2 glasses NESTEA Serenity green tea
Coupon will be given to Pizza Hut dine-in customers until May 15, 2006. Valid for dine-in transactions and redemption is until June 5, 2006. One coupon per transaction & not valid with any other promotion. Available at all Pizza Hut dine-in restaurants except Pizza Hut Bistro.
Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2483 series of 2006